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TODAY

10P

WOMEN'S MAGAZINES DEFEND SEX AND ESCAPISM
PAGE 19

AT HABITAT THIS CHRISTMAS
DISCOUNT CARD INSIDE TODAY
PLUS TOKEN 1 PAGE 37

FINAL WEEK
SEE SPECIAL DETAILS PAGE 42

UNDER THE SKIN OF SPORT

14 PAGES

HACKING A HAKA
How to face the All Blacks war dance PAGE 31

FOOTBALL
Leeds deliver a Hammer blow

PAGE 27

TODAY

10P

Japan shaken by collapsing broker

Clinton flies to aid of his Asian allies

FROM TOM RHODES
IN WASHINGTON
AND JASON NISSE

PRESIDENT Clinton yesterday guaranteed America's commitment to the troubled economies of Asia as the possible collapse of Yamaichi, one of the big four Tokyo brokers, threatened the biggest financial failure in Japan since the Second World War.

The board of Yamaichi was meeting late last night to decide whether to cease trading after 100 years. The Bank of Japan also met to thrash out a financial package to support investors who have deposited Y24 trillion (£110 billion) with Yamaichi.

Other Japanese banks reacted quickly to reassure the market that they were still solvent. A key supporter of Yamaichi, Fuji Bank, said there was a possibility it may suffer losses on up to Y20 billion of loans.

The Tokyo markets are closed today for a public holiday but the Nikkei index is expected to fall sharply tomorrow. However, experts predicted that the problems of Yamaichi — following earlier collapses of Sanyo Securities and Hokkaido Takushoku, Japan's tenth largest bank — may have a positive effect of the Japanese markets.

Roger Bootle, chief economist at HSBC, said the markets had already discounted the possibility of Yamaichi closing after revelations about its links with organised crime and its large liabilities. Japanese analysts said the move would speed up deregulation,

conomy and a country the US Treasury views as a "firewall" between the Asian market chaos and the two economic superpowers of America and Japan, became the latest victim of what has been described as the Asian flu of collapsing markets.

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Mr Clinton, maintaining that he would win that authority early next year, vowed to forge ahead with his drive for free trade, the pillar of his Asia policy embodied in a 1994 agreement with the Asia-Pacific countries to create a free-trade zone as early as 2010.

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which could benefit US brokers such as Merrill Lynch, Goldman Sachs and Morgan Stanley.

Arriving in Vancouver yesterday on the eve of the annual gathering of the Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation forum, Mr Clinton attempted to calm the jittery eastern markets by portraying America as a Pacific power.

"America's future and Asia's future are joined," he said. "With such deep stakes in the region, our security and our economic interests must go hand in hand."

But the summit, starting today, could not come at a worse time as the 17 Asian and North and South American members of APEC are nearly all wounded by global economic forces beyond their control.

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Phil Stubbs (left) and Robert Hamill fly their flag in Port St Charles, Barbados

Atlantic rowers' 41-day voyage cuts 32 days from record

BY BARRY PICKTHALL

RECORD transatlantic rowers Phil Stubbs and Rob Hamill were celebrating victory in Barbados yesterday after crossing the Atlantic in just 41 days, 32 days fewer than the previous best time.

The New Zealand pair, who could not afford £5,000 needed for a radio and do not have enough for an air fare home, did not know that they had won the 3,000-mile race until sighted the palm trees of Port St Charles on Saturday.

They finished 570 miles ahead of their closest rivals from France and have left the best British team trailing by 1,000 miles.

Hamill, who won a silver medal in the world two-man skiff championship in 1994 and represented New Zealand at last year's Olympic Games in Atlanta, was surprised by the margin of their victory. "We had no idea we were even in the lead. If we had known that, we would have probably slacked off."

Sir Chay Blyth, who organised the race to commemorate his own two-man transatlantic crossing with fellow paratrooper John Ridgeway in 1966, said: "This is proof that adventure is still alive. I was amazed by their speed. At times they were going at five knots which shows true grit and typical Kiwi attitude."

Stubbs, a policeman and lifeguard rower, who has his eye on an Olympic rowing medal in 2000, said that the hardest part had been the preparation and training. "The money has always been a problem and we are still in debt. We don't even have the money for our tickets home."

Hamill, a sea-sickness sufferer, put himself through an aerobics course and sailed

across the North Sea to try to overcome the problem. As a result he suffered only slightly for four days after starting from Tenerife with 28 other teams on October 12.

They stopped rowing only once — during a 50-knot gale which they had to sit for two days with their 24ft boat holding station with a sea anchor. But the problem that almost broke them was water. Their desalinator broke down on day 12 and again on day 30.

"We repaired it but for the last 11 days we could only produce around 15 litres a day. We were drinking twice that much and had to supplement our supply from emergency rations," Stubbs said.

Sores which had plagued the pair during training were overcome with contoured seat and sheepskin cushions. Stubbs said: "We rowed naked most of the way except for gloves which stopped our hands blistering. Our fingers are a bit numb but apart from that we're still very fit."

Nine of the 28 teams have been forced to give up although two individuals are continuing to row despite the fact that their partners have been taken off the boat. One crew has been disqualified for getting outside help. The next rowers are expected to reach Barbados at the end of this week.

Two British brothers were rescued earlier this month after they went missing for six days. Mamew and Edward Boreham were one third of the way through the 3,000-mile crossing.

The transatlantic rowing record was set in 1971 when two British oarsmen Don and Geoff Allum rowed from Las Palmas to Barbados at an average of 37.04 miles a day.

Britain 'must not help extremists'

President Mubarak of Egypt attacked Britain for giving shelter to Islamic extremists and thus encouraging attacks such as the Luxor massacre last week in which 58 tourists. He said: "If you do not want your sons to be killed, why do you protect killers?" — Page 12

Task for Major

John Major's appointment as Prince William's and Prince Harry's legal protector — an honest broker between their mother's estate and the Revenue — is unlikely to stop the Treasury gaining much of their inheritance — Page 5

Brown rejects softer Budget line on benefits, spending and pay

BY PHILIP WEBSTER
AND ALASDAIR MURRAY

GORDON BROWN will tomorrow try to quell demands for a softer approach to benefits reform with a warning to ministers and the public that there can be no let-up over spending or pay.

Delivering his first pre-Budget report against the background of a rising Labour deficit over cuts in single parent and disability allowances, and new figures suggesting that public finances are far healthier than expected, the Chancellor is expected to say that "vigilance" is now more important than ever for Labour.

He will call on all British workers to keep wages down in the interests of avoiding higher mortgage rates while

creating economic prosperity well into the next century.

But he is also likely to say that Labour should avoid the "mistakes of the past" by "erring on the side of caution" in its treatment of public borrowing. It should avoid the error of the "Lawson boom" years in the late 1980s when the Conservative Government eased up, only for public finances to worsen sharply as the recession took a grip.

According to Treasury officials, Mr Brown's message will be that "this is just the point where we have to remain vigilant."

There is considerable suspicion among MPs of all parties that Mr Brown wants to be as rigorous as possible in the early years of the Government in the hope of loosening the purse strings nearer the next

election. His other theme, they say, is that "wage responsibility is a price worth paying to achieve jobs now and prosperity later".

Ministers are privately bracing themselves for a clash with a public sector union during the winter. For that reason Mr Brown, in presenting his "green" budget, is expected to make plain that the private sector must also shoulder the burden.

With unemployment at its lowest for years the Government fears that the level of wage rises, currently running at 4.25 per cent, will jeopardise its inflation target, which would mean higher interest and mortgage rates.

Mr Brown and Tony Blair are anxious that the promising borrowing figures and the growing internal wor-

ries over benefits reform are not used by ministers as an excuse to ask for more money.

In an interview yesterday Mr Blair urged voters to keep faith with his Government and angrily denied that it was failing to keep its promises to the poor and socially excluded.

Last week, however, saw the first signs of internal rebellion since the election, with Labour MPs openly attacking Harriet Harman over her plans to reduce benefits for single parents.

Potentially more serious was the threat of more concerted opposition to a central plank of the proposed shakeup of the welfare state — proposals to cut benefits for 6.5 million disabled people by encouraging many of them into work. The main objective

Continued on page 2, col 4

Grieving Paula Yates in Sydney

PAULA YATES, the grieving lover of Michael Hutchence arrived in Sydney last night as local police refused to confirm earlier reports that the lead singer of INXS had hanged himself and also denied reports that he had died during a sex game. Lawyers for Ms Yates also denied the sex story.

The police were looking for an Australian actress, Kim Wilson, and her boyfriend, Christopher Stollery, who are believed to have visited Hutchence in the bedroom of his hotel shortly before he died.

They also wish to question Ms Yates about the state of Hutchence's mind during the past few days. Results of a post mortem examination are expected today.

Death denial, page 3

Obituary, page 25

machines, passing counterfeit or stolen credit cards, and giving false information when checking in.

Robin Wilkins, managing director of Sea France, said the move had received the approval of immigration officials. The stamping of passports was a policy applied only "in extreme circumstances".

"We are not prepared to tolerate violence, abuse or physical damage. We are talking about persistent offenders or those who go completely over the top."

P&O Ferries said: "The move is to try to combat bootlegging. It is a major problem in Dover — it was getting a bit like Chicago".

Bootleggers are big business in winter when fares fall as low as £10 for a car and nine passengers. A million legitimate shoppers are expected to visit Calais next month alone.



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TV & RADIO	50, 51
WEATHER	26
CROSSWORDS	26, 52
LETTERS	23
OBITUARIES	25
PETER RIDDELL	22
ARTS	20-21
CHESS & BRIDGE	38
COURT & SOCIAL	24
BUSINESS	43-50, 52
MIND & MATTER	17
LAW REPORT	42



48

A CRACKDOWN on cross-Channel crime by police and ferry companies has led to the stamping of offenders' passports so suspects are banned from ferries and trains.

Five ferry firms operating from Kent ports and the Channel Tunnel rail operator Le Shuttle have joined the scheme. Offenders are banned indefinitely.

The move is part of a crackdown co-ordinated by Kent police in reaction to a spiral of violence between rival bootlegger gangs at Dover. But as the pre-Christmas booze cruise business reaches its peak, passengers are also being banned for offences such as shoplifting, drunkenness and attempts to buy duty-free shopping passes from passengers. The initiative,

against staff. Police believe gangs from Newcastle, Liverpool, Manchester and Leeds have joined in the highly profitable trade. In August two men in their thirties were shot within 15 minutes in separate incidents. Assault, burglary and car theft have also increased significantly in Dover.

Yesterday Kent police said the passport scheme comes after a special conference last month with the chief executives of the ferry companies. Dover Harbour police, immigration officers and Customs. Dover Harbour police said the idea has the blessing of the Passport Office, which has agreed where stamps can be placed.

The

Hague to move private office in power shake-up

By PHILIP WEBSTER, POLITICAL EDITOR

WILLIAM HAGUE is planning to shift most of his private office out of the Commons to Conservative headquarters in a move to improve party morale and strengthen his authority as leader.

And in a move that will please party professionals, he has promoted Sebastian Coe, the former Olympic champion who lost his seat at the election, to be his private secretary and chief of staff.

The shake-up is seen by insiders as further proof that Mr Hague intends to take more account of the party membership than any recent Tory leader. The move to Central Office is seen as symbolising his desire to listen as much to the rank-and-file as to MPs, who are still blamed throughout the party for the debacle of May 1.

Mr Hague wants to give party activists some 35 per cent of the vote in future leadership elections — and he is believed to favour an early party referendum on the sin-

gle currency to secure backing for his hardened line of ruling out British membership for at least ten years.

The move to Smith Square is part of the biggest overhaul of the party's organisation since the war. Mr Hague also wants to improve the cohesion of the organisation, and answer complaints that the views of party headquarters are not always taken on board.

The appointment of Mr Coe, who replaces Charles Hendry, another former MP who becomes director of business relations, was praised yesterday by members of the Shadow Cabinet who believe that he can be relied upon to offer sensible, non-ideological advice to the leader. The reorganisation comes as Mr Hague again faces the task of lifting his party after its dismal performances in the Winchester and Beckenham by-elections last week.

Yesterday he was advised by several senior figures that he needs to adopt a more flexible line on Europe if he is to win the next general election.

David Curry, who resigned from the Shadow Cabinet over the single currency stance, said the Tories need a "broad church" approach on Europe to widen their appeal.

Many traditional Tory supporters might be more open to persuasion on the question of a single currency than Mr Hague believed, he said. "I think people appreciate that the issue is much more complicated than it might at first appear," he told GMTV's *The Sunday Programme*.

People are much more pragmatic. I find that people want to decide for themselves in the Conservative Party. There is a real appetite for debate."

Now that the Conservatives were in opposition they had the freedom to have a thorough debate within the party and should make use of this. "I don't believe we will help ourselves if we try to prevent the debate taking place," he said.

But Mr Curry criticised the decision of Peter Temple-Morris, MP for Leominster, for leaving the party. He said: "I believe absolutely firmly that we have to argue our corner from within the Conservative Party because the party has traditionally been the party of positive engagement in Europe."

The Labour leadership, meanwhile, remains confident that Mr Temple-Morris will at some point join them. He is to take his seat on the Labour benches this week, while sitting as an independent One Nation Conservative.

Sir George Young, the shadow defence secretary and another pro-European Conservative, said on BBC1's *Breakfast with Frost* programme that he was content with the agreed policy to oppose the single currency at the next election.

"I'm quite happy with where we are now, which is to rule it out for the next parliament."



Alistair Darling, Treasury Chief Secretary, speaking in Eastbourne yesterday

Softer line rejected

Continued from page 1
of the programme is to try to get as many people as possible into work so that benefits can be concentrated on those with the most severe handicaps.

Options under consideration include taxing, means-testing or time-limiting some benefits and replacing others with insurance schemes. The plans have met with opposition from some Cabinet ministers, including John Prescott and Frank Dobson.

This week the all-party parliamentary disability group is seeking an urgent meeting

with Ms Harman to express alarm. Lord Ashley, its chairman, said: "The proposed cuts will cause severe hardship and enduring resentment. All disability groups are implacably opposed to a backward-looking revision."

Alistair Darling, the Treasury Chief Secretary, addressed the concerns of Labour MPs in a speech to a Labour European conference at Eastbourne. Making many references to the need for "tough choices and hard decisions", he said that putting the public finances on a sound footing would allow long term investment in health and education as well as delivering stability. "But that prize will only be ours if we make the tough choices essential in government. Facing up to hard choices, setting priorities and sticking to them."

Defending the welfare proposals, he said the key was helping people on benefit to become employed. "The welfare system must be geared to promoting that employability. For too many people, getting a job brings little additional benefit to the family income."

Mr Brown's green budget, designed to promote public discussion in the run-up to next year's Budget, signals his intent to make it easier for the lower paid to move into work.



Brown: wants to make it easier for lower paid

NEWS IN BRIEF

Labour faces crisis over pit closures

The Government will come under pressure this week from MPs, unions and mining communities to prevent the demise of the coal industry.

A leaked paper from the Department of Trade and Industry has revealed that ministers are braced for a series of pit-closure announcements before Christmas. About 5,000 jobs could be lost over the next few months, as contracts expire between RJB Mining — Britain's biggest producer — and the electricity generators, according to figures based on DTI estimates submitted to the European Commission. Mick Clapham, Labour MP for Barnsley West, who chairs the all-party coal committee group, said: "The Government should consider extending the rolling contracts."

Astronomer burgled

An Omega watch given to the television astronomer Patrick Moore by the astronaut Jim Irwin, who landed on the Moon with Apollo 15 in 1971, was among items stolen from Mr Moore's home at Selby, West Sussex. A Military Cross awarded to his father in the First World War was also taken. Mr Moore was not at home at the time of the burglary.

Steel fence cuts truancy

A school with one of the worst records for truancy in the country has solved the problem by building an 8ft-high, £35,000, steel perimeter fence to keep pupils in. Teachers claim that it has already cut truancy figures at the 470-pupil Franklin Community High School in Birmingham which last week was named as the worst in the city and the fifth-worst in the country for non-attendance.

Sacked postman ruling

Philip Cox, 36, from the West Midlands, who was sacked a year ago because of poor attendance — which he blamed on his asthma — may be offered his job back after a landmark industrial tribunal ruling that his asthma should have been taken into account. More than 700 residents in his round signed a petition calling on the Royal Mail to reinstate him.

House sellers beware

New proposals from estate agents, surveyors and auctioneers would make house sellers responsible for providing the necessary proof that their property was a wise buy. They believe that the shift in ones could limit gazing while halving the average 13 weeks it takes to complete a purchase. They will lobby Hilary Armstrong, the Housing Minister, over the plans.

'Silent epidemic' threat

Almost one pregnant woman in five in Britain is infected with genital herpes, an international conference was told. Most are unaware that they are carriers of the incurable illness and can pass it on to their babies at birth. The International Herpes Management Forum in Cannes heard of a "silent epidemic" spreading so fast that up to a third of the population in some areas was now infected.

Pupils try to save school

Pupils at a residential school for asthma and eczema sufferers are planning a sit-in to save it from closing after 40 years. Pilgrims School, in Seaford, East Sussex, once had 65 pupils but now cares for only 17 children. Invalid Children Aid Nationwide, the charity that runs it, said it had to close before Christmas because of rising costs. A parents' action committee has found 46 potential new pupils.

Scout killed at camp

A 17-year-old Venture Scout died when she fell under the wheels of a trailer. Michelle Stanley, from Sellindge, Kent, was part of a group from the First Saltwood Unit from Folkestone, carrying out repairs at the camp near East Grinstead, West Sussex. She was standing on a tractor, slipped and fell under the trailer wheels. Two other teenagers were treated for minor injuries.

Branson hints at deal over Formula 1

By PHILIP WEBSTER

THE Government is preparing for compromise over its refusal to ban tobacco sponsorship of Formula One motor racing.

Although ministers say publicly that they will negotiate in Brussels for an indefinite exclusion for Formula One, senior government sources admit privately that a time limit — with seven years the most likely period — will be allowed for the sport to find other forms of sponsorship.

Richard Branson, the Virgin chief and unofficial adviser to the Government on alternative sponsorship, yesterday gave the clearest hint so far that ministers will climb down over an issue that has caused them more trouble than any other since the general election.

Previously he has been strongly critical of the Government's stance. But yesterday, in a conciliatory tone that suggested concessions are in the air, he said that he was sure that a compromise would be reached.

He even suggested the time limit: "Ten years would be a bit long. I think a compromise of something like seven years would be something that most people would be happy to go along with." He said that the time limit should apply to all sports.

Mr Branson said the Government was mistaken in its claim that there was a risk to the jobs of 50,000 workers in Formula One.

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Letters, page 23

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Secret Lloyd C...

SECRET documents have been obtained by the Times which reveal that David Lloyd George, the former prime minister, was offered a knighthood and a peerage in 1919. Lloyd George had been a leading figure in the Liberal Party and was known for his support of the Poor Law Amendment Act of 1909. The documents also show that there was a secret meeting between Lloyd George and John Griffiths, the then leader of the Liberal Party, in 1919. Lloyd George had been a leading figure in the Liberal Party and was known for his support of the Poor Law Amendment Act of 1909. The documents also show that there was a secret meeting between Lloyd George and John Griffiths, the then leader of the Liberal Party, in 1919. Lloyd George had been a leading figure in the Liberal Party and was known for his support of the Poor Law Amendment Act of 1909. The documents also show that there was a secret meeting between Lloyd George and John Griffiths, the then leader of the Liberal Party, in 1919. 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NEWS IN BRIEF
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er pit closures

...under pressure this week
and local communities in the
area from the Department of the
Environment that measures are being
taken before the new law comes
into force next year. The Minister
of State for Environment, Michael Heseltine,
said: "We have an estimate of
£100 million for the first year.
The Government should
have the right to take the air and water
and the environment should be
protected."

Thief burgled

...in the television studio
of the Australian singer Paula Yates
was among those who attended
the First World War
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THE TIMES MONDAY NOVEMBER 24 1997

Yates denies her lover died in sex game

Police await toxicology reports after INXS singer's body found in hotel, writes Roger Maynard from Sydney

THE lawyer representing Paula Yates angrily denied reports last night that her lover, the rock star Michael Hutchence, had died when a bizarre sex game went wrong.

As a distraught Miss Yates flew into Sydney with their daughter it was still unclear whether Hutchence had died of over-indulgence or taken his own life.

The lead singer of the Australian band INXS was found hanged by a leather belt in a hotel room on Saturday. No note had been left, but police found empty alcohol bottles and prescription drugs in the room.

Anthony Burton, Miss Yates' lawyer who said he was speaking on behalf of his client, rejected suggestions that the death was due to the sexual practice of auto-erotic asphyxia. "I condemn the scurrilous and grossly irresponsible speculation and fiction trailed as fact in some tabloids that 'kinky sex' led to Michael's tragic death."

Mr Burton, who broke the news of Hutchence's death to his client at the Chelsea home the couple shared, added: "There is no evidence whatsoever to support this." Police

tion and toxicology tests. The 37-year-old's body was discovered at midday by a maid in a suite at the Ritz Carlton Hotel in Sydney, hanging by a leather belt from a door.

Inspector Dennis Smith of Rose Bay Police, would only say yesterday: "At this stage we are comfortable there are no suspicious circumstances." The singer had given no indication that he was suicidal, the officer added.

Police were anxious to talk to the Australian actress Kym Wilson and her boyfriend, Christopher Stollery, who are believed to have visited Hutchence in his bedroom.

Witnesses said the couple joined the singer in his suite around midnight and did not leave until shortly before dawn.

The actress appeared in the soap opera *E Street* and the television drama *Brides of Christ*, both of which were shown in Britain. Hotel records indicate that Hutchence made a series of telephone calls after the couple's departure, including one to Paula Yates. He also phoned a friend about 9am, agreeing to meet her for breakfast. A police spokesman

said the friend, whose identity he would not reveal, arrived at an hour later but could not get an answer from Hutchence's room. She slipped a note under his door before leaving. Detectives were planning to interview Yates, 37, when she arrived in Sydney with her 16-month-old daughter by Hutchence, Heavenly Hiraani Tiger Lily.

After years of living, as he

confessed, a life lived by sex, drugs and alcohol, the singer

appeared to have slowed up a little. He and Yates, who is divorced from Bob Geldof by whom she has three daughters, were due to marry in January on the South Sea island of Bora Bora. Nevertheless, the couple's relationship and her split with Geldof had been accompanied by lurid tabloid stories.

The wrangles with Geldof over their children and the house they had shared were acrimonious and legal dis-

punes continue. Hutchence was involved in a crash with photographers who were trying to photograph the family after the birth of their daughter last year. Later there were allegations that drugs had been found at their home, but no charges were brought.

There was speculation yesterday that these domestic trials had depressed Hutchence and there were further suggestions that he was low because the 20-year-old band's latest album had not been a critical success.

Police interviewed Hutchence's father, Kell, who had dinner with his son at a restaurant near the hotel on Friday night. One Australian newspaper reported that the two men and Hutchence's stepmother were seen smiling and laughing during the meal.

But restaurant staff said Hutchence Sr at one stage looked concerned. His father put his hand on top of his, asking Michael if everything was all right and if he was OK," a waitress was quoted as saying.

Funeral arrangements have yet to be determined.

Additional reporting by
Damian Whitworth



Michael Hutchence and Paula Yates in Sydney last year with Heavenly Hiraani Tiger Lily. The couple planned to marry next year

BAND UNLIKELY TO CONTINUE WITHOUT STAR FRONTMAN AND SONGWRITER



INXS: after 20-year career and 11 albums, their latest reprise of *Young Blood* offers little

Michael Hutchence's death will almost certainly spell the end of his band INXS. Not only did Hutchence co-write most of the band's songs but it was his charisma which gave the band its star quality on record, stage and film. History suggests any attempt by the rest of the band to carry on without him could prove disastrous.

The three Farriss brothers — Jon, Andrew and Tim — and bassist Garry Beers may be well advised to round off their career with a Greatest Hits album in tribute to their singer but leave it at that. Sources at Mercury, their record label, claim it is too soon to speculate about the band's future.

Ironically, the band are prominently featured in the new action film, *Face/Off* which is currently doing good business

around the world. Rock is littered with bands unsuccessfully attempting to soldier on without their figureheads. Just last week Parlophone Records decided not to release a new single by the three surviving members of Queen because of lack of airplay and weak sales of its parent album, *Queen Rocks*. *No One But You* is Queen's first track not to feature frontman Freddie Mercury who died of Aids six years ago today. It will probably be their last.

A rare example of dressed up tracks from the words proving a critical success has been Jimi Hendrix. The American guitar legend's family issued a completed version of his final album *First Rays of the New Rising Sun* this year which was welcomed by fans and critics alike.



Kym Wilson may have been last to see him alive

Eye experts dismiss fears on laser pens as hysteria

Ian Murray reports on specialists

who say that claims of pain and damage have created a new myth

authorities and lawyers, while the Government was wondering whether the pointers should be banned.

"The whole thing is hysterical," he said. "Doctors refer patients to us, but we're turning them all away." He said that the pointers had a radiant emission of five milliwatts. Even if this was shone directly on to the eye, it caused less dazzle than a "powerful flash bulb." While there were many claims for ocular injury, none had been upheld.

"Many individuals claim to have seen a bright light followed by pain or irritation in the eye with redness and headaches. There are no pain receptors in the retina. Reddening of the eye may come from rubbing eyelids, and this

is triggered by the patient and not the laser strike. Headaches have no role in laser damage." If irreversible damage occurred, he said, the patient would experience a bright flash followed by a green after-image which would not fade, leaving a permanently unclear area.

"Laser pointers used appropriately are not an eye hazard and, even if used inappropriately, will not cause permanent eye damage."

Professor Marshall has sat on the World Health Organisation and International Red Cross Committees concerned with laser safety. Alan Bird, professor of ophthalmology at the Institute of Ophthalmology, backed his comments: "There may be temporary



Secret Lloyd George death plot

By RICHARD FORD

SECRET government files detailing a plot to murder David Lloyd George are to be released later this week. They will disclose how police became aware that a mother and daughter allegedly hatched a plot to kill the Prime Minister in 1917.

John Grigg, author of three volumes of the life of Lloyd George, said that the former Prime Minister's great-grandson, Robin Lloyd George, had told him recently that he was aware that there had been a plot, but that few details were known.

"I will be really interested to discover what these documents tell us about the background to the incident. It has been talked about, but very little is known officially," he said.

Files detailing the long campaign in the 1950s and

1960s to reform the law surrounding homosexuality and prostitution are also to be released this week.

Among other Home Office papers to be published are documents relating to one of the great literary cause célèbres of the century when a lesbian novel by Radclyffe Hall was banned after an obscenity trial.

Under a Home Office drive to disclose as many secret records as possible, officials have reviewed many files relating to once-controversial social issues and have decided that many of those reflecting general attitudes towards sexual matters can now be released.

The files on sexual attitudes focus on the mood for change after publication in 1957 of the Wolfenden Report on the law on homosexuality and prostitution. The report, now seen as a watershed in public attitudes to morality, recommended that homosexual conduct between consenting male adults over 21 in private should no longer be a crime.

It also called for increased penalties for street prostitution.

But such was the political

climate at the time that the Conservative Government of Harold Macmillan took no action on its main recommendation about gay sex.

But in 1959 the Street Offences Act was passed in an attempt to clear the streets of prostitutes though this had the effect of increasing trade in other premises.

It was to be ten years after

Wolfenden before the 1967 Sexual Offences Act was passed effectively decriminalising gay sex between consenting male adults in private. Last night Leo Abse, the former Labour MP who piloted the bill into law, said: "These papers will be most interesting if they show who was lobbying against any change and what police and official attitudes were at the time."

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INTERNATIONAL FUND
FOR ANIMAL WELFARE

Major will try to cut Princes' £8.4m tax bill

THE appointment of John Major as legal and financial protector to Prince William and Prince Harry, which was confirmed yesterday, is unlikely to stop a large bulk of their inheritance passing to the Treasury.

The former Prime Minister's task will be to act as an honest broker between the trustees of the estate of Diana, Princess of Wales, and the Inland Revenue, but it seems unlikely that even he will be able to prevent the Revenue seizing an estimated £8.4 million in inheritance tax from a legacy primarily intended for the late Princess's two sons.

Mr Major was chosen for the role by the Prince of Wales because of his close involvement in drawing up the late Princess's £17 million divorce settlement last year, and for what the Prince regarded as his discreet and efficient handling of a delicate issue. The Queen has given her approval, and Tony Blair has welcomed the choice.

Full details of the Princess's estate and will have never

The Princess received a £17 million divorce settlement but she had not drawn up a new will by the time of her death. Alan Hamilton reports

been disclosed, but she died leaving assets variously valued at between £20 million and £40 million, with the intention that the bulk of it should go to her children. The first act of the Prince and Mr Major has been to appoint an independent firm of solicitors, Boddie and Co, to look after the boys' interests.

Until now the estate has been entirely in the hands of the late Princess's solicitors, Mishcon de Reya, who drew up the divorce settlement with Farrer and Co, the solicitors who represent the Queen and the Prince of Wales. The Princess's executors are her lawyer, Anthony Julius, her mother, Frances Shand Kydd, and her sister, Lady Sarah

McCorquodale. Because the Princess died young, she did not have time to arrange her financial affairs to best advantage, and her trustees now fear that her £17 million divorce settlement may be prey to inheritance tax at 40 per cent.

The Prince and Mr Major considered going to court to have the divorce settlement overturned in order to preserve the money for the boys, but palace sources said last night that that avenue had been abandoned by the estate's trustees, who feared it would not succeed and might look like special pleading by the Royal Family.

The Princess's lawyers had considered a so-called "Barder application", named after a

legal precedent in which the courts overturned a divorce settlement because the beneficiary had died much younger than expected.

The 1987 House of Lords ruling holds that in certain circumstances, and provided that third parties are not adversely affected, the order regarding the divorce settlement can be set aside.

The ruling came about as the result of a case known as Barder v Barder, in which a wife killed her two children and then committed suicide shortly after her divorce settlement. Legal sources have disclosed that the Princess's payment was on the basis that her life expectancy would be 86. She was 36 when she died.

Had the application succeeded, the Prince of Wales would have reclaimed the bulk of the divorce settlement and reinvested it in a trust fund for his sons. The move is a recognised tax avoidance practice, and there would have been no question of the Prince trying to evade tax. Although full details of the Princess's



The Prince of Wales and his two sons. The two young Princes' share of the divorce settlement will be taxed

will — which was not updated after her divorce settlement — have not been disclosed, it is known that her wish was for the majority of her estate to go to her sons, with the balance in favour of Prince Harry. His elder brother, Prince William, stands to inherit the Duchy of Cornwall, currently providing

an income of £4.5 million a year, when his father ascends the throne.

When the Princess's father died, he left her a sum estimated at the time at £3 million. She owned no property, living as she did rent-free in a grace-and-favour apartment at Kensington Palace. Many of the

stunning jewellery pieces she wore, including Queen Mary's tiara and emeralds, were Royal Family heirlooms and under the terms of the settlement cannot be sold. She had an engagement ring which cost £28,500 and is now probably worth ten times that much, and some other personal jew-

els, including priceless pieces given by Arabian sheikhs.

It is believed that the Princess willed most of her personal jewels to her children, with the intention that it pass on to their future wives.

□ Additional reporting by Philip Webster and Frances Gibb

People's palace flats may earn £36,000 a week

BY ALAN HAMILTON

PLANS to evict a phalanx of second-division royalty from Kensington Palace and turn the former home of Diana, Princess of Wales into an art gallery and a shrine to her memory could earn millions for the Crown.

The scheme has been floated by Royal Household officials and leaked to test public reaction. It is still a long way from being approved by the Queen, or by a Government which yesterday claimed no knowledge of its existence. But it commands attention because, on the surface, it appears to kill several birds with one stone.

First, it would provide a permanent memorial to the Princess, although whether it would incorporate a statue of her — perhaps in the preservation of her private apartments — remains undecided.

Second, it would provide a home for the Royal Collection, which at 10,000 paintings, enamels and miniatures, not to mention half a million prints, photographs and a priceless assemblage of antique furniture, is the largest art collection in private hands in the world.

Third, by pensioning off

the palace's royal residents, who occupy a range of spacious grace-and-favour apartments, the Queen would be seen to be slimming down the apparatus of royalty, which many regard as still too cumbersome, even although minor royals are no longer funded by the taxpayer.

Kensington Palace's occupants are Princess Margaret, the Duke and Duchess of Gloucester, the Duke's elderly mother, Princess Alice, the Duke and Duchess of Kent and Prince and Princess Michael of Kent. Apart from Princess Margaret, who could be offered a home in St James's Palace, the others have palatial country homes.

The move into the Kensington Palace is said to involve renting out some of the smaller grace-and-favour residences occupied by Royal Household staff.

Lorna Vestey, a Knight Frank partner, estimated that a good four-bedroom apartment within the palace could command at least £3,000 a week. She estimated that the palace was home to approximately a dozen apartments, with some small houses within the courtyard buildings.

reception's terrible,
have another look
for my tape

don't be ridiculous

you know it never
leaves the car

like I said,
it's not in here

I'm not joking

like I need reminding



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Court in Ireland lets rape girl seek abortion

By A CORRESPONDENT

A PREGNANT 13-year-old Irish girl, the victim of an alleged rape, was effectively given permission to travel to Britain for an abortion during a secret session of the Irish Children's Court.

Her parents, members of Ireland's travelling community, are to appeal against the decision in the High Court and are taking advice from anti-abortion groups.

On Saturday a man in his twenties was charged in Dublin's District Court with having carnal knowledge of a girl under 15.

David Andrews, the Irish Foreign Minister, yesterday described the controversy as an "unacceptable embarrassment" amid political wrangling that could affect Ireland's coalition Government.

The affair has similarities to a case five years ago when a 14-year-old rape victim was allowed to come to Britain for a termination after initially being refused permission to travel under the terms of the Irish constitutional ban on abortion.

This case prompted referendums to amend the constitution and guarantee the rights of women to go abroad for abortions.

The new case has gone to court because the girl is in the care of Irish health officials, who are barred from assisting towards an abortion. It has led to criticism of successive Irish governments for failing to take steps to regularise the law.

Independent members of the Irish parliament who are opposed to abortion and who support Prime Minister Bertie Ahern's Government have warned him against taking action that could make abortion more freely available.

Prisoners need escapist dreams, says governor

BY TERRI JUDD

THE man charged with keeping Myra Hindley and Rosemary West under lock and key has insisted that his inmates must keep "some hope of escape". Niall Clifford made his comments after £10 million was spent on improving security at Durham Prison, where he is governor.

"To the best of my knowledge, my staff have identified all potential routes of escape we can imagine," he said yesterday. "But we also recognise that prisoners are imaginative and could have seen a route we have not worked out."

To deny prisoners that glimmer of hope would create an explosive situation, he insisted. He rejected an American system of escape-proof jails where armed guards patrol electric fences: "If prisoners, as a corporate entity, have the impression it is totally impossible they are hermetically sealed into this terrible place — that is when it becomes dangerous."

"If you seal a pressure cooker you get an enormous explosion. The issue is not just about escape it is moving their mind towards other things. We do our best to maintain hope of future rehabilitation."

The jail has not suffered any recent breakouts, although John McVicar escaped its walls in October 1968. Classed as a Core Local Prison, Durham is one of five in the country authorised to hold category A remand inmates. Security has been increased nationwide after recommendations in the Woodcock and



Niall Clifford at Durham Prison: "If you remove all possibility of escape completely, you also remove hope"

Larmont reports sparked by escapes from Parkhurst and Whitemoor. An inner perimeter fence, a central locking system and increased vigilance on visitors are part of tighter security at Durham.

Mr Clifford prompted angry calls from local people when he told the BBC's regional Look North programme: "If you remove all possibility of escape completely, you also remove hope, and

mand prisoners within four days. Mr Clifford insisted that there was no connection with the increased security.

West was jailed in 1995 after being convicted of ten murders at the Gloucester house she shared with her husband, Frederick Myra Hindley and her accomplice, Ian Brady. They were sentenced to life imprisonment in 1966 for the killings of Lesley Ann Downey and John Kilbride. A Prison Ser-

vice spokesman said last night: "The Prison Service's duty is to keep those in custody that the courts send to us. However, we would never suggest that any of our prisons is 100 per cent escape-proof."

It is not just physical perimeters that prevent escapes, but also security procedures, ensuring people are in the right place, at the right time in the right numbers."

Thirty jails to be built in ten years

By RICHARD FORD

THE Prison Service is to embark on a building programme that will provide up to 20,000 new places for the rapidly rising prison population.

Thirty sites have been chosen in England and Wales for projects that will increase income for private security firms, which are anxious for a bigger slice of the penal market. The Prison Service's annual report says

that two or three prisons will be built each year for the next ten years with a service struggling to keep pace with a jail population that is outstripping projections before they are published. The previous Government had estimated that the jail population would reach 74,500 by 2005 but latest forecasts suggest this will be reached in 2002. The figure has risen by 3,400 to 63,500 since the general election.

Although Labour is opposed to

private jails, the implications of finding cash to build prisons has forced it to accept that they will be designed, constructed, managed and financed by the private sector on 25-year contracts totalling £250 million. Under this system the Government pays an annual rent but has no capital or maintenance costs.

The Prison Service is investigating whether jails could be built by private industry and managed by the public

sector but the idea is unlikely to be viable.

Joyce Quin, the prisons minister, told MPs that seven jails are to open in the next three years, including the Securicor-run Park jail near Bridgend which opened last week. Group 4's Altcourse at Fazakerley, Liverpool, which opens next month and Lowdham Grange in Nottinghamshire, opening in February. Another four will open in from 1999 to 2000.

Meeting on vaccines

Parents of vaccine-damaged children will meet Baroness Hollis of Heigham, the Social Security minister, tomorrow in their first formal meeting with a government minister in 18 years. They are seeking higher compensation and recognition that some children have been damaged by MMR (measles, mumps and rubella) or whooping cough vaccines. The Vaccine Damage Act was one of the last pieces of legislation put through under the last Labour Government in 1979.

Swipe for democracy

The 60 members of the proposed Welsh assembly are likely to be the first elected representatives in Britain to vote by electronic swipcard. Members away on overseas business would also be allowed to vote electronically, avoiding their having to be flown home to attend vital meetings. Voting would also be instantaneous. The plans are being studied by the Welsh Office, which says it wants the assembly to be the most modern, high-tech, democratic chamber in the world.

Hostage freedom talks

United Nations officials were working to secure the release of a British aid worker, Dennis Cassidy, 49, from Merseyside, and four UN workers kidnapped on Friday by gunmen at Elayo, on the Gulf of Aden in northern Somalia. Four tribesmen were killed during an attempt by a rival clan to free the hostages on Saturday. The North declared independence from the South in 1991. The other hostages are two Kenyans, an Indian and a Canadian.



Rat numbers 'soaring'

The rat population is escalating because water companies are putting profit before health, environmental health officer's claim in ITV's *World in Action* tonight. Britain has an estimated 60 million rats. The Chartered Institute of Environmental Health wants more pest control by water companies and councils. A survey by the Robens Centre for Public and Environmental Health, University of Surrey, found that more than 900,000 homes in England were infested with vermin.

Elderly denied worship

Older people in residential care are being denied the chance to worship regularly, according to a report by the charity Counsel and Care for the Elderly. About 1,500 of the 19,000 residential care and nursing homes in Britain were said to offer no opportunities to worship on the premises and few to visit local churches. In others, most of the services do not take place on Sundays and are "extremely infrequent", with ill-prepared clergy, no proper music and little or no staff support.

Night on the tiles

"Smart" floors, containing tiny electric fields that can sense people walking around and monitor their breathing and pulse if they fall, are being tested in a nursing home by the Finnish company Messet, the magazine *New Scientist* reported. The floor's tiny polypropylene bubbles are said to be more than 30 times more sensitive than other pressure-detection materials, can be laid on concrete and covered with tiles, and will detect someone walking around at night then send out a warning signal.

Call for defence cuts

The strategic defence review, due to be completed by next spring, must produce radical cuts in the number of tank regiments, surface warships and submarines to keep the forces' structure "relevant to the 21st century", says a Fabian Society report by Malcolm Chalmers, a defence analyst from Bradford University. It also suggests upgrading aircraft carriers rather than ordering new ones for an estimated £4.5 billion.

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Tattooed women may hold key to amnesiac's identity

DOCTORS treating the victim of a mugging who has lost his memory are hoping that tattoos on his arms will help to solve his identity (Michael Hornsby writes).

The man, who is in Cardiff Royal Infirmary, has the names of six women tattooed on his arms who could be past girlfriends. The names Marian and Claire are on his left forearm, Lucy on his right forearm, Camille and Jenny on his right upper arm and Yvonne on his right wrist.

Speaking from his hospital bed yesterday, he said: "I hope they won't be upset but I

cannot remember anything about these women. But I hope they will remember me and tell me who I am. They could be my old flames, girlfriends or wives. I'm just praying they will know who I am. I don't know my name, my job or where I'm from."

Doctors say that apart from the amnesia he is otherwise fit and well after stumbling into the city's central police station 12 days ago. The only clues to his identity are that he is 5ft 7ins, in his mid-forties and has a northern accent.

The man says his last recollection was being approached

by two youths who wanted his sports bag. He was punched on the back of the head and woke up in the street.

"There's no joy in being a mystery," he said. "I don't even know what I'm doing here in Cardiff. I could have a whole family from there."

Dr Raghu Reddy, senior house officer at the hospital, said: "There is no treatment for him. We will just have to wait. Memory can come back suddenly. We hope the names on his arms could be important clues so he can go back to his family for Christmas."

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NEWS IN BRIEF

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members 'soaring'

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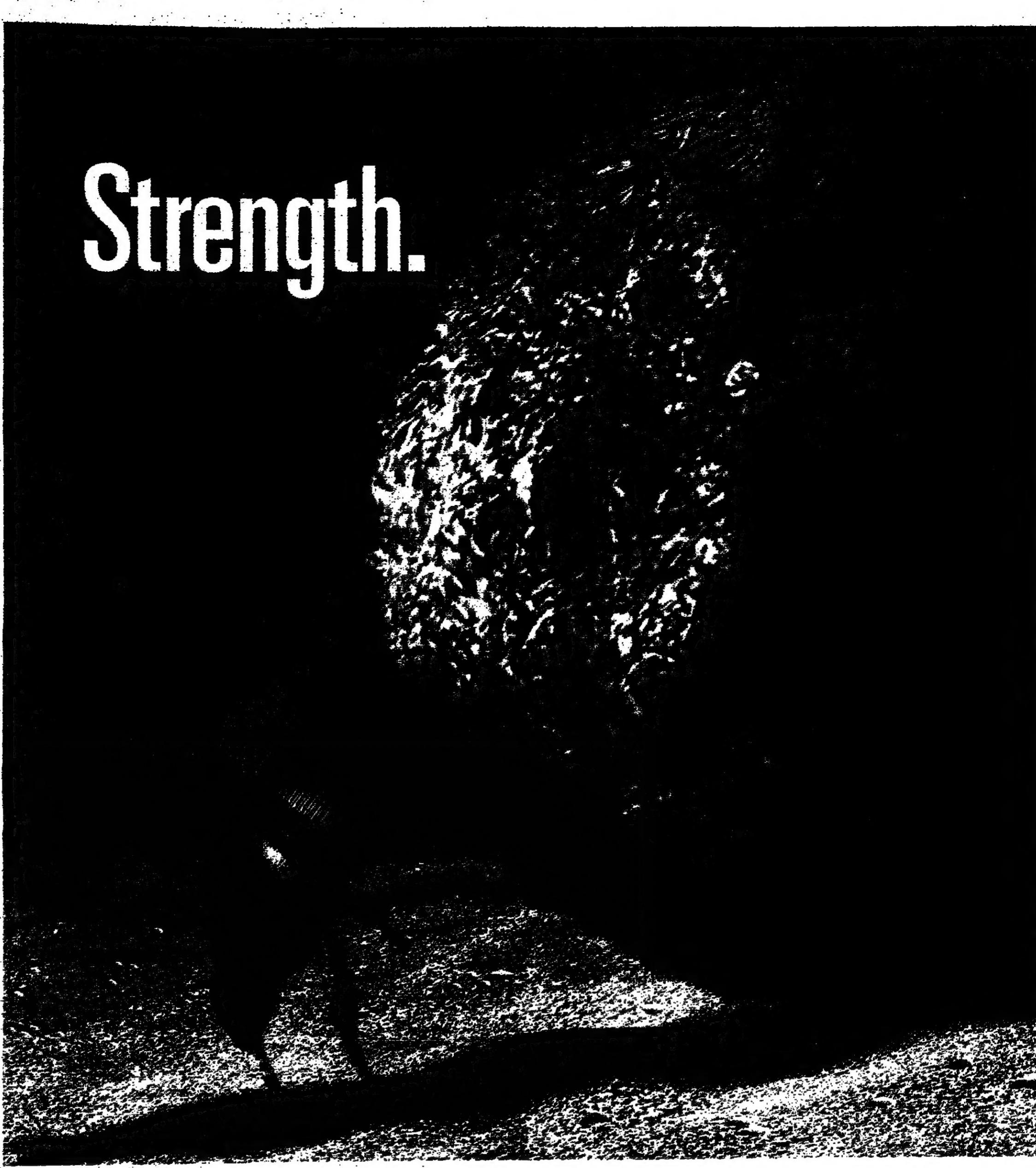
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CABLE & WHEELS

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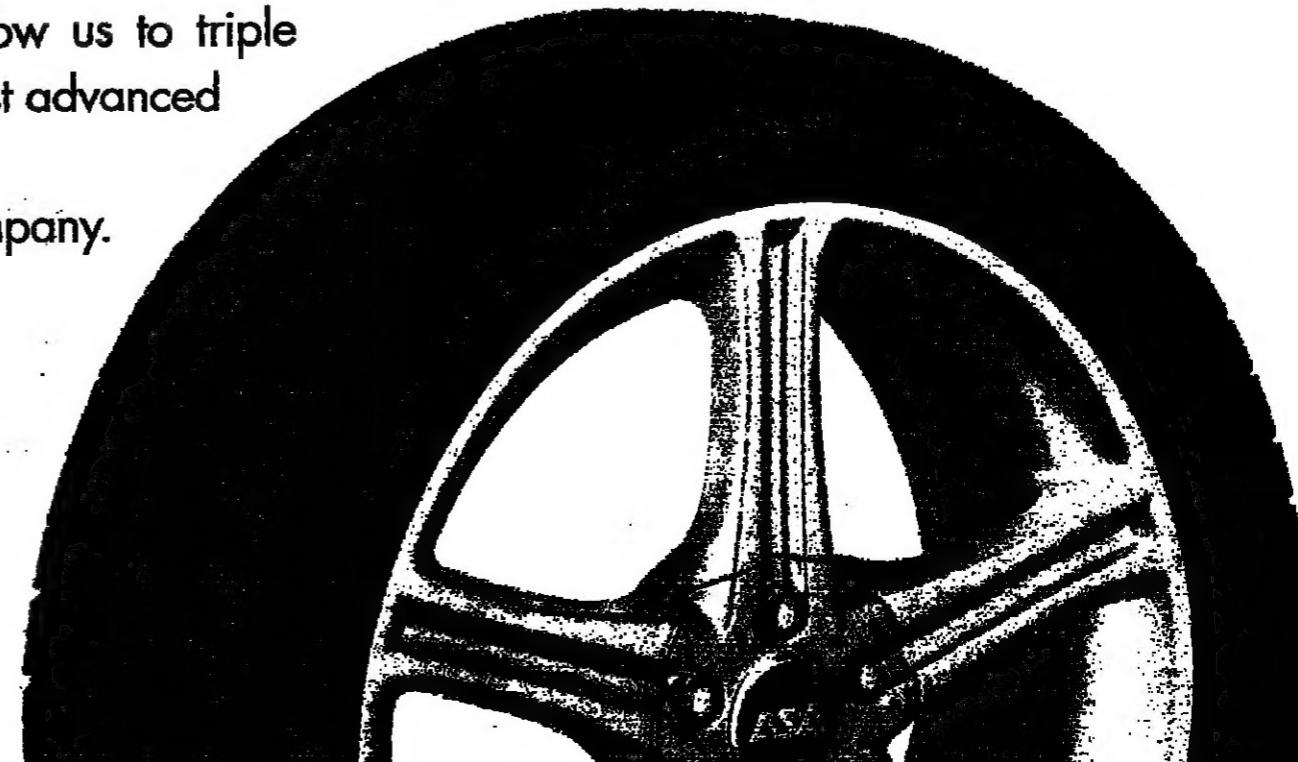
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An American in the torture chamber

George Mitchell had intended to quit politics and start having fun, but instead is trying to solve the Troubles in Ulster. Martin Fletcher reports

GEORGE MITCHELL, the former US Senate leader who chairs the Stormont peace talks, was being interviewed by *The Times* in the lounge of Belfast's Europa Hotel one night last week when the piano player arrived. "Back for more torture?", the musician called cheerily to the 64-year-old American. Mr Mitchell laughed. He received lots of encouragement from ordinary Ulstermen, he said, but the one question they all asked was why on earth he was doing it.

Why indeed? Mr Mitchell has spent almost three years working to keep Northern Ireland's peace train on track despite constant threats of derailment and carriages full of warring passengers weighed down with historical baggage and inclined to yank the communication cord at every opportunity.

This is not his country. He accepts no pay. He splits half his life in aircraft, albeit in first-class compartments, and is separated for days on end from a new wife 25 years his junior and their month-old son. Home from home is a dull little suite at the off-bombed Europa. Belfast in winter is the sort of place even raffle winners might reject.

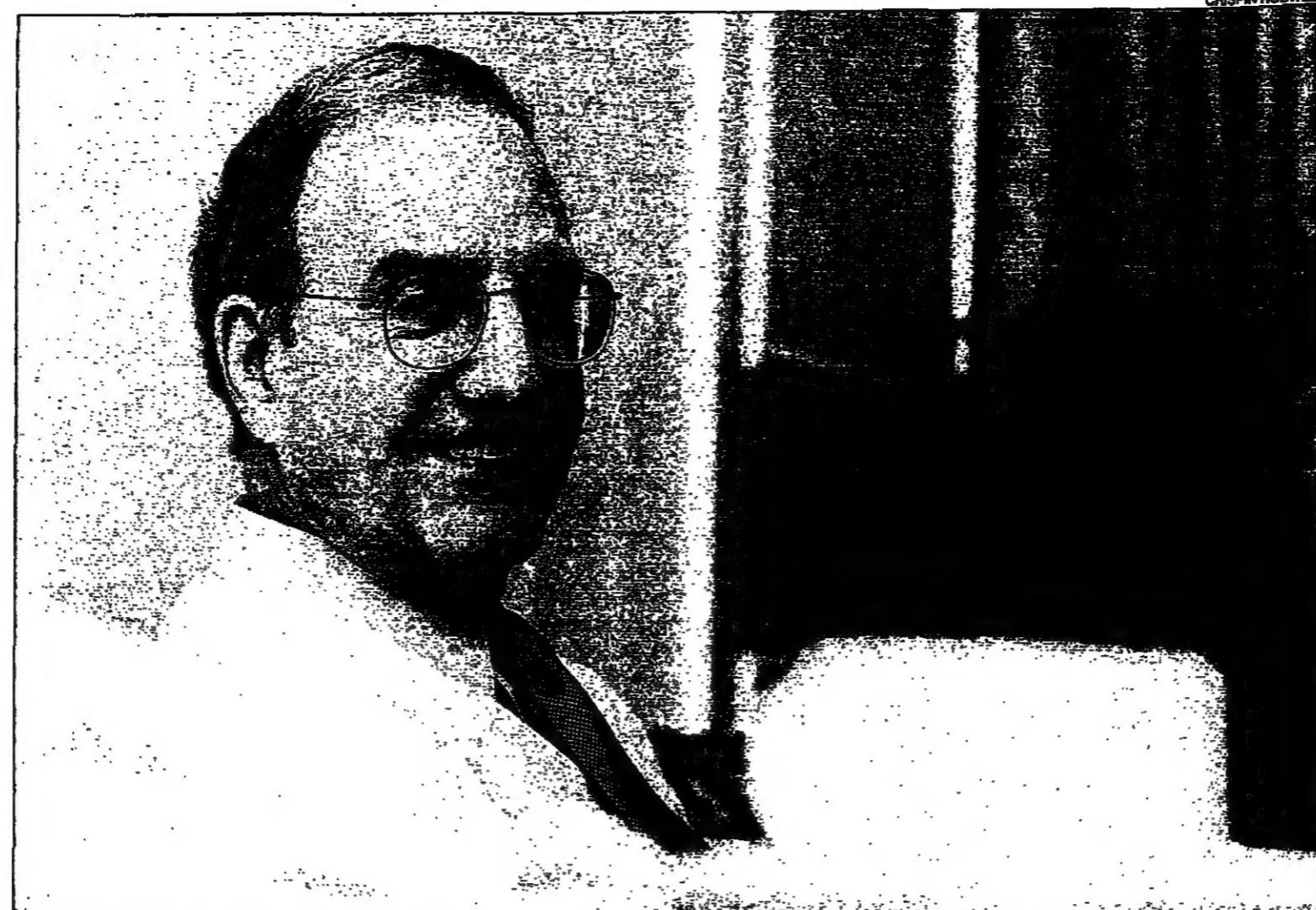
Mr Mitchell did have Irish grandparents — his name would have been George Kilroy had his father not been adopted — but he never knew them, has been unable to trace his roots, and had paid just one two-day visit to Ireland before 1994.

The truth is that he had no intention of becoming so deeply involved. When he left the Senate in 1994 and married Heather MacLachlan, a Canadian sports promoter, "I told her I was retiring from politics and I meant it." When President Clinton asked him to spend six months organising a trade and investment conference in Washington to bolster the previous IRA ceasefire: "I thought it would involve a couple of trips over here, meetings with various officials, staging the conference and that would be it."

The six months stretched to a year to cover Mr Clinton's visit in late 1995. Then London and Dublin asked him to tackle the issue of paramilitary decommissioning, on which the entire process was fondering. Prime Ministers and Taoiseachs changed. Before he knew it he was chairman of the talks — fixer, facilitator and arbitrator-in-chief. "I became progressively more involved in a way I didn't seek or foresee," he said.

If Mr Mitchell minds, he does not show it. He is resolutely upbeat, despite constant jibes. He insists he is for the opportunity to "play a small role in what could be an historic event". But the sacrifices are considerable.

At an age when most men contemplate retirement, he endures the most punishing schedule as he juggles the demands of the talks, his family in Manhattan, law firms in Washington DC and his native Maine, periodic trips to Bosnia for the International Crisis Group, and di-



George Mitchell: "I thought it would involve a couple of trips over here and that would be it." Before he knew it, he was talks chairman

rectorships of Walt Disney, Xerox and Federal Express.

For relaxation he reads. He has just finished a Stalin biography, is starting a history of the Arab peoples, and has devoured two dozen books relevant to the talks. He recently published his own tome on the battle between democracy and communism called *Not For America Alone*.

"That commitment is still more remarkable considering that, after leaving the Senate, he could feasibly have become a Supreme Court judge, Secretary of State, or — best of all for a lifelong Boston Red Sox fan — America's \$1 million-a-

lifestyle. "The hardest part is the separation from my family. But I have always worked hard, and if you're really committed to something you can get through it."

That commitment is still more remarkable considering that, after leaving the Senate, he could feasibly have become a Supreme Court judge, Secretary of State, or — best of all for a lifelong Boston Red Sox fan — America's \$1 million-a-

year baseball commissioner. Baseball's loss is Ulster's gain. Under Mr Mitchell's dogged stewardship the peace process has advanced further than most dared hope. Unionists and republicans are at the same table for the first time.

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BY KEVIN LEWIS
HORRIGAN, OLYMPIC

AN INQUIRY into air quality in Britain's towns and cities has reported today that the government's environmental policies have been "disastrous".

The report, by the Royal Commission on Environmental Pollution, says that levels of traffic pollution in Britain are among the worst in Europe.

It also claims that

A ROYAL throne in the Cabinet Office is among an array of antique treasures that will be listed today in the Government's new version of the *Domesday Book*. The gilt chair used by George II is one of thousands of items declared by government departments in a survey of property ordered by the Chancellor of the Exchequer.

The 550-page National Asset Register ranges from art to equipment, land and buildings. It was pledged by Gordon Brown during the election, to be used by ministers to identify new areas for rationalisation and sell-offs.

The total value of Government assets is expected to be more than £300 billion, although many have still to be valued. Senior officials are also examining ways to allow the public greater access to some of the treasures which are hidden away. There are about 1,000 works in the government art collection.

Among the less artistic oddi-



The Charles Clay clock, valued up to £80,000, and an ornate leg on the board table, value unknown



over 60 residences in St John's Wood, one of London's most prestigious addresses. The Department of the Environment, Transport and the Regions owns Burlington House in Piccadilly, home to the Royal Academy, while the Department of Culture, Media and Sport owns Trafalgar Square, Marble Arch, Apsley House, the Wellington Arch, and 54 houses.

At the Cabinet Office, the throne with fine gilt carving of the Royal Cipher of George II, with cherubs, stands on a dais in the first-floor conference room. In the 18th century, this was the Treasury boardroom, and the throne of Chair of State was used by the Sovereign when he attended a meeting of the board. King George III was the last monarch to do this. The throne is one of the precious items listed without a value in the register.

The same room also houses the former Treasury board table, with legs carved in the same design as the throne.



Seats of power: George II's Chair of State among the other chairs in the Cabinet Office conference room

the top is covered with leather and stamped with an elaborate design incorporating the rose, thistle and shamrock. The value is noted as "un-known, but considerable".

A bill from 1739 records a charge of 10/- by Robert Sapp, the upholsterer, for "cutting

the table in the boardroom lower" and five guineas "for making seven waistcoat drawers with seven strong mortise locks with brass escutcheons and keys different".

The room, decorated in sage-coloured damask, also houses eight original Treasury

board chairs, each valued at £30,000. Another rare find in the Cabinet Office is a clock made by Charles Clay, appointed in 1721 to maintain official clocks by the former Board of Works. It is valued at £60,000 to £80,000. Made of ebony and secured on a plinth,

it stands over 6ft tall and features two dials, one showing the months and weeks and the other showing the time.

The Cabinet Office also lists 750 books in the Prime Minister's library — mainly presented by ministers on taking office.

Vaccine recipe is eggs and bananas

BY MICHAEL HORNSEY

BOILED eggs could soon offer a pain-free vaccination against common illnesses such as flu, mumps and measles, according to American researchers.

The "smart" egg is the latest development in edible vaccines, aimed at revolutionising disease prevention, particularly in the Third World, where mass immunisation is costly and difficult.

Egg Innovations, of Port Washington, Wisconsin, hopes to have eggs with antibodies available within 18 months. The technique involves injecting hens with antigens, the substances which trigger production of antibodies to block the spread of infection. Their eggs could be the first edible vaccines that can be cooked or processed.

Other scientists, however, are sceptical about how long the "passive immunisation" achieved by transferring antibodies would last, and question whether the antibodies could survive cooking. Biotechnologists at the Boyce Thompson Institute for Plant Research, at Cornell University in New York State, are genetically engineering "bananas" to deliver a mixture of vaccines instead.

Bananas are the ideal choice, according to Charles Arntzen, president of the institute because they are plentiful, cheap, tasty and eaten raw. In pure form, they can be fed easily to babies.

BBC may behave badly for Christmas

BY RAYMOND SNODDY

ALMOST a month before Christmas, the BBC has yet to decide on its comedy special for the big day. The choice is between *The Vicar of Dibley* and *Men Behaving Badly*.

The festive special of the politically incorrect *Men Behaving Badly*, which stars Martin Clunes and Neil Morrissey, is being tipped as the season's big audience winner, but it may not be thought appropriate for Christmas Day compared with *The Vicar of Dibley*, starring Dawn French.

The BBC has been left with a huge gap in its listings because of the non-appearance this year of *Only Fools and Horses*. Last Christmas, the final three-part series of the comedy produced record audiences that peaked at 24.35 million. Peter Salmon, the new BBC controller, is hoping he can maintain the corporation's traditional Christmas dominance with comedy specials of many of its other hit shows, including *One Foot in the Grave*, *Mrs Merton* and *Birds of a Feather*.

There will also be television premieres of the films *Forrest Gump*, *The Flintstones* and *The Mask*, and an adaptation of Wilkie Collins's *The Woman in White*, starring Tara Fitzgerald and Ian Richardson.

BBC2 highlights will include a film version of *Madam Butterfly*, the new Royal Opera House production of *The Merry Widow* and a season of films by the late James Stewart, including *Mr Smith Goes to Washington* and *The Philadelphia Story*.

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Whitehall reveals it is sitting on a fortune

Valerie Elliott previews a new Domesday Book of state property

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Officials struggle to save tourism

Cairo: Businessmen and officials met here yesterday to discuss ways of helping Egyptian tourism to recover from the recent killing of 58 foreign visitors by Muslim militants.

The attack was the deadliest in a five-year campaign aimed at toppling the country's secular Government. The total death toll was 68, including four Egyptians and the six gunmen.

The effect on tourism, which annually earns nearly £1.5 billion, was devastating. Many hotels and restaurants in Luxor have begun laying off employees.

One travel agent reported that Nile River cruises in the area had been cancelled for lack of custom. Mahmoud Salem of Egypt's Tourism Federation, said yesterday's meeting would make recommendations to the Government to help the industry revive. (AP)

Britain 'protecting Egyptian militants'

By CHRISTOPHER WALKER, MIDDLE EAST CORRESPONDENT

PRESIDENT MUBARAK of Egypt attacked Britain yesterday for giving shelter to fugitive Islamic extremists and thus encouraging attacks such as the Luxor massacre last week in which 58 tourists died, six of them British.

"If you do not want your sons to be killed, why do you protect killers?" he asked angrily when opening a museum in the winter resort of Aswan.

There are people who carried out crimes and who were sentenced in Egypt, who live on British land and in other states such as Afghanistan," added the President, who narrowly survived an ambush by Islamic militants in Ethiopia in 1995 and who is accused by the fundamentalists of heading an "apostate regime".

His comments came after similar accusations were made in private to the British Embassy in Cairo by an Egyptian Government that has provided documentary evidence to show that large

sums of cash are routed through London to the main rebel group, al-Gama'a al-Islamiya (The Islamic Group), which claimed responsibility with the twin issues of political asylum and fundraising.

Similar accusations of Britain being used as a centre by exiled militants to mastermind terrorist operations in the Middle East have been made by the right-wing Government of Israel, which alleges that London is a centre for money-laundering for groups such as Hamas and Islamic Jihad.

In addition to money, often sent in the form of donations supposedly raised for the families of prisoners, exiled militants have been accused of using Britain as a base from which to send instructions via the Internet to terror cells in the Middle East.

Days before Mr Mubarak's accusation, evidence of large sums of money being sent from Britain to Muslim extremists encouraged Jack Straw, the Home Secretary, to dismiss his Interior

Minister over security lapses exposed by the Luxor massacre, admitted that mistakes had been made, but claimed that without the help of exiled militants, such as those allegedly living in Britain, such attacks would not happen.

British sources said that one problem facing the Government was dealing with individuals who would face the death penalty if returned to their country of origin. More than 90 militant have been sentenced to death in Egypt since 1992, many by military courts from which there is no right of appeal. About 50 of those have been executed.

A slip of paper found on the body of one of the six attackers who murdered 58 tourists and four Egyptians at Luxor's Temple of Queen Hatshepsut read: "We are at your service, Mustafa Hamza". This referred to the military leader of al-Gama'a who is believed by some to have ordered the massacre from exile in Afghanistan.



Mubarak views a Nubian statue at the new Nubia Museum in Aswan yesterday

London is not terror haven, say ministers

The Government is seeking ways to tighten the law, Michael Binyon writes

THE Government yesterday denied President Mubarak's accusation that Britain was a haven for Islamic terrorism.

The Foreign Office said that the Government unreservedly condemned terrorism and took the threat from Muslim radicals very seriously. "We are strongly committed to taking action against anyone who uses the UK as a base for terrorist activities," an official said, adding that Britain's record was good compared to other countries.

However, the Government is urgently seeking ways to tighten the law to prevent Islamic exiles and asylum-seekers from using Britain to promote action against friendly governments. Jack Straw, the Home Secretary, is to begin consultations in January on two specific new laws: bringing in a ban on fundraising in Britain for terrorist groups and making it an offence to conspire to plot terrorism overseas.

Mr Straw said in a radio interview last week that he would not propose the ban on incitement to terrorism demanded by many foreign governments. This was because it would clash with the right to free speech and there were problems of definition.

He said that such a law could have been used to stop anyone advocating freedom for Nelson Mandela. The Government is also looking at a proposal to proscribe terrorist organisations. This clear break with past policy would outlaw the Kurdish Workers' Party, the PKK, for example, which is already banned in Germany and several other European countries but not in Britain. Turkey has often called for such legislation, but until now officials have said a blanket ban would only drive extremists underground.

In the past two years Britain has been increasingly embarrassed by the large number of Islamic extremists coming here. Many governments, including those of Egypt, Algeria, Tunisia, Turkey, Bahrain and Saudi Arabia, have denounced their presence in Britain and called for tighter laws. Unlike almost all other European countries, Britain does not forbid foreign exiles from engaging in politics provided they do not break British law. At present, moreover, the law does not specifically outlaw masterminding terror-

ist activities overseas. Conservative ministers tried last year to introduce a law similar to Mr Straw's proposal. That was defeated in the Commons because it also made inciting an offence and many Labour MPs thought this damaged free speech.

There are at least 15 extremist groups in Britain seeking to overthrow established governments in the Muslim world.

They also oppose the Middle East peace process, denounce current rulers and want all secular governments overthrown and Islamic states established. In September last year they proposed a huge rally in London to which many overseas militant Islamists were invited.

The Egyptian Government issued a formal protest and summoned the British chargé d'affaires in Cairo to demand an explanation. Algeria and Tunisia also voiced their concern.

The Government publicly denounced the rally, but was unable to ban it.

It gave a warning, however,

that anyone who incited racial hatred or called for assassinations would be prosecuted.

In the event, the rally was cancelled because organisers could not find insurance cover.

John Major promised two years ago that the Government would crack down on Islamic radical exiles in Britain, many of whom seek support from British Muslims. Robin Cook, the Foreign Secretary, promised Arab ambassadors in London last week that the Government would continue to take a tough line.

France has criticised Britain for allowing Algerian Islamist leaders and suspected terrorists to come here. Britain promised that the Special Branch and MI5 would step up their observations and monitoring of terrorist supporters and those helping the Armed Islamic Group. Last year police arrested several Algerians wanted in connection with the bombings of the Paris Metro.

The Conservative Government introduced a new instrument in the United Nations last year making the support of terrorism or past terrorist connections a valid reason not to accept asylum-seekers and there has been a clear new caution among well-known dissident exiles, including Muhammad al-Masari, the Saudi physicist who has led a campaign against the Saudi Royal Family. He has extraordinary permission to remain here. But his case highlighted the Government's dilemma about what to do with figures wanted in their own country but who commit no offence while in Britain.

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دعاكم الأجل

Kohl's future may hang on tribal loyalties and World Cup glory

INSIDE GERMANY



BY ROGER BOYES

Football wins votes. But can the German team play well enough to save Helmut Kohl, the Chancellor? After the critical euro decision next spring there will be some bumpy months before the election in September. Herr Kohl will need a supportive burst of football fever after the World Soccer Championships if he is to avoid permanent relegation.

The latest opinion polls indicate a melting of opposition to the euro, much to the Chancellor's relief. He has always placed his bets on such a swing even though the pollsters told him that two-thirds of the nation were

even along Hegelian lines (thesis: the euro brings Europe together; antithesis: but the euro destroys the mark). Synthesis: the euro has to be identical to the mark. Rather, the public is swayed by a sense of certainty emanating from the top, the will of the political class not only guides but also replaces the will of the people. Because Germans are sure the euro will go ahead whatever they think, they express themselves in favour.

Even so, the election campaign will be full of anger and suspicion. The Chancellor is happiest playing the populist card, but there are

no easy votes to be won on the euro. If Italy is included in the first wave, if the mark is somehow equated with the lira in the German public mind, then Herr Kohl will take a battering, especially from the right flank. So the Chancellor is counting on a golden goal finish.

On July 12, the finals of the World Cup will be played in Paris. Germany has to win — football pride replacing currency pride — and Herr Kohl has to be there to embrace, on television, Berti Vogts, the national coach. Herr Vogts is a

close ally of the Chancellor even to the extent of appearing in advertisements for the euro. Some good economic figures (growth will be strong by the summer), a bit of bungling on the part of the opposition Social Democrats as they struggle to find an official challenger and a few spectacular goals in Paris may be enough to divert attention from the employment figures, the euro-fears and the mess of tax reform.

The logic is simple: football unlocks patriotic sentiments and these always benefit the Christian Democrats. Herr Kohl tried the same tactic

during the European championships. If Germany plays well, it is because it is well captained and well trained, he told a television interviewer during a break in the championships.

It does not need much imagination to work out the political message: Herr Kohl sees himself as both the skipper and the coach of the German nation. The Bavarian Christian Social Union, sister to the Christian Democrats, already plans a series of football parties throughout the election campaign in which, according to Bernd Pötzner, its general secretary, "People will be able to

meet our candidates and come to know them as sports fans and patriots."

Small wonder there is a row about who gets to shake the hand of the trains in July. Herr Kohl or Gerhard Schroeder, his probable challenger, who is president of the Bundestag, the upper house of parliament.

The Chancellor's interest in football is not entirely political posturing. In his younger, slimmer days, he played for a Ludwigshafen amateur team; he likes the tactical flow from defence to attack. But since German politics is provincial, that being the essence

of a federal system, all successful politicians link up with their local clubs — and keep the connection when they reach the Cabinet.

Klaus Kinkel, the Foreign Minister, makes time for Karlsruhe matches. Theo Waigel, the Finance Minister, rarely misses the Munich local derby between Bayern Munich and 1860 Munich. Visiting statesmen often end up on the terraces, cold and bemused, alongside their German hosts. Tribal football loyalties connect leaders with the led at a time when such links are failing.

Letters, page 23

Daughter tells how she helped to kill family

FROM CHARLES BREMNER IN BRUSSELS

BELGIUM'S latest serial murder case has taken a macabre turn after the daughter of a Brussels pastor confessed to killing her mother and to helping him to kill her two brothers, her stepmother and stepbrother.

The confession of Agnès Pandy, 39, was a breakthrough for police who had failed to elicit any statement from Andras Pandy, a Hungarian-born religion teacher, since he was arrested and charged a month ago with murdering six of his family.

In a case that has raised fresh questions about Belgian police competence, investigators also reported over the weekend that frozen human flesh and bones found in Mr Pandy's Brussels house belonged to none of the six. The finding, suggested by DNA test and evidence from the Hungarian police, raised the prospect that he had killed as many as a dozen people in the past decade.

Inspector François Monnier said Agnès Pandy, an employee of the Brussels Library, had blurted out her tale on Thursday night. Under orders from her father, she had used a pistol and a

sledgehammer to murder Ugoña Sores, her mother, she said. She had helped her father to put to death her brothers Daniel and Zoltan, her stepmother and father's second wife Edith Fintor, and Fintor's daughter Andrea between 1986 and 1990. The pair disposed of the bodies. "Some parts were dissolved in acid. Others were put in plastic bags and left near the abattoirs of Anderlecht," Inspector Monsieur said.

Prosecutors depicted Ms Pandy as a psychologically fragile woman dominated by her father, a man who left her as a sexually obsessed manipulator with all the traits of the psychopath serial killer. In 1992 Ms Pandy had reported her father to the police for alleged incest and had then alleged that he was involved in the disappearance of her mother and brothers.

Inspector Monsieur said that last week he had allowed Ms Pandy to take a 15-minute walk to "think things over". On her return, he had put the full file under her nose and said: "Now we're going to talk seriously." He added: "All of a sudden, she cracked."

Mr Pandy, who came to



Andras Pandy: is accused of killing two wives and four of his eight children

Poll gives Serbs chance to come in from cold

FROM TOM WALKER IN PRISTINA

HARDLINE Bosnian Serbs are getting the message. The proof lies in a faded outline on the wall at Radio Pristina, where until last month there hung a portrait of Radovan Karadžić, the West's most wanted war crimes suspect.

Republika Srpska's shifting political sands have previously rabidly nationalist public officials running scared. The martyrdom of "Dr K" is now taboo and if the weekend's parliamentary elections hand power to his Western-backed rival, President Plavšić, he may be forgotten in this ravaged corner of north-west Bosnia.

Until results become known next month, Pristina's ugly past is being brushed under the carpet. Even the July killing by the SAS of the man known locally as "Mr Ten Percent," Šimao Dričić, receives barely a mention now. For the first time in five years, foreigners feel almost welcome. "It was recommended [by foreign friends] that the portrait should not stay," said Zoran Baros, Radio Pristina's editor, yesterday.

The radio's chameleon politics, however, have come too late to win friends. A notorious agent of wartime ethnic cleansing, and denounced by the US-based watchdog Human Rights Watch, it receives no external funding. Like so much of Pristina it smacks of

desperate poverty and isolation. Yet around the corner in Carrington Building — named after *Dynasty* star Blake Carrington, not the peer and Yugoslav peacemaker — is the new Radio Fenix. Funded by the philanthropist George Soros and USAid's "Office of Transition Initiatives", and boasting Western rock, pacy news bulletins and a growing audience, it represents Srpska's acceptable face for the international community.

"We have reached the point where we no longer care about issues like war criminals," Drasko Milinović, a Fenix journalist, said. "There is a desperation among young people to leave this environment ... to improve their living standards. Whether Muslims come back has become a minor issue."

The rival airwaves reflect the political elite. Mrs Plavšić, the first Bosnian Serb leader to co-operate with the West, will win multimillion-dollar aid packages if she can build a moderate political coalition that paves the way for the return of Muslim and Croat refugees and clamps down on war criminals.

The election is deeply unpredictable. Most observers yesterday reckoned that her new Serb People's Union could win about 20 per cent of the vote, enough to build a moderate coalition.

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Winnie Mandela faces accusers

Truth Commission appearance is gamble to win ANC votes, says Sam Kiley from Johannesburg

NELSON MANDELA'S former wife Winnie will today face allegations that she was involved in 13 murders and numerous human-rights abuses during a township reign of terror in the late 1980s. The African National Congress hopes the claims, to the Truth and Reconciliation Commission, will shatter her chances of winning the party's deputy presidency.

But the hearings of the commission — set up to hear amnesty pleas over apartheid crimes — will also reveal the dark side of the ANC and the extent to which senior figures in the struggle against apartheid connived to protect her from prosecution.

Members of the South Afri-

can ruling elite are lining up to give evidence against the erstwhile "Mother of the Nation". Among them is Sydney Mufamadi, the Minister of Police, who was part of an ANC crisis committee which issued a warning to Oliver Tambo, then party president, saying that she "thinks she is above the community" and had participated in the assault on Stompie Moketsi Seipei, who was murdered in December 1988.

Katiza Cebekhulu, a star witness in the prosecution of Mrs Madikizela-Mandela, has been granted immunity from prosecution. He disappeared during her trial for the abduction and murder of Stompie, 14, and was being sheltered by Baroness Nicholson of Winterbourne, the former British MP. Now he may say that he watched as Mrs Madikizela-Mandela plunged a sharp object into Stompie. According to Kenneth Ka-

unda, the former Zambian President, Mr Cebekhulu was smuggled out of South Africa to Lusaka at the request of the ANC leadership to prevent his giving evidence against Mrs Madikizela-Mandela.

But the most damning evidence may come from crisis committee members, including Cyril Ramaphosa, who went on to become ANC Secretary-General and is now a prominent businessman. In 1989 the committee wrote to the late Tambo saying it believed Mrs Madikizela-Mandela had spun out of control and was a threat to the community and party credibility.

There have also been suggestions that she may have

been in the pay of the white Government's security police, along with Jerry Richardson, now serving life for Stompie's murder. She was convicted and fined for kidnapping and assaulting Stompie.

Albertina Sisulu, widow of Walter Sisulu — who held the post now coveted by Mrs Madikizela-Mandela — may destroy her alibi in the Stompie case and may accuse her of other killings.

Truth Commission hearings into the activities of Mrs

Madikizela-Mandela's bodyguards, known as the Mandisa United Football Club, open three weeks before the ANC's 50th-anniversary conference, at which Mr Mandela will retire as party president.

EXPLORER ARCHIVES



The "paradise on earth" as described by Coleridge



One of Xanadu's newly revealed features may be the park where Kubla Khan was believed to have hunted deer

Aerial survey uncovers high street of Xanadu

FROM JAMES PRINGLE
IN BEIJING

SO TWICE five miles of fertile ground with walls and towers were girdled round: And there were gardens bright with sinuous rills, Where blossomed many an incense-bearing tree.

Samuel Taylor Coleridge's poem that begins "In Xanadu did Kubla Khan a stately pleasure-dome decree", was quoted in Beijing's *China Daily* yesterday when it reported discoveries that "have already excited archaeologists" at the Inner Mongolian site now known as Shangdu. Chinese aerial archaeologists, flying over the ruins of Xanadu, the summer palace of Kubla Khan, have found a main avenue that they believe was once lined by shops and restaurants.

The archaeologists believe they were formerly frequented by travellers from the ancient Mediterranean, possibly including Marco Polo who had claimed to have visited Xanadu when employed in the court of Kubla Khan, 1214-1294, the grandson of the Mongol conqueror Genghis Khan, the newspaper said.

Referring to recent aerial photographic reconnaissance which took place in northern China, Yang Lin, director of the Centre of Remote Sensing and Aerial Archaeology, said: "In Xanadu, we have found ruins of ancient streets and tombs that haven't been noticed before." An aerial picture published yesterday showed the three squares of the imperial city, the inner city and the palace city which — as Coleridge wrote — cover "an area of several dozen square kilometres".

The reason much of this had not been noticed in the past was that it



US black groups accused of buying off teacher in affirmative action case

FROM TUNKU VARADARAJAN IN NEW YORK

A LONG-running "affirmative action" case has been settled out of court after a white teacher — who was made redundant eight years ago so that her school could accommodate a black teacher no better qualified than she — accepted compensation.

Seventy per cent of the \$433,500 (£280,000) was paid by the Black Leadership Forum, a civil rights group which was determined to stop the suit from reaching the Supreme Court. The group feared that the court would use the case to cut down the scope of affirmative action.

The Supreme Court has already pared down affirmative action in two recent cases

and experts had predicted that the case of Sharon Taxman, laid off by the Piscataway High School in New Jersey in 1989, would see that trend continue. David Rubin, the lawyer for the Piscataway school board, said that the black rights group believed that "an adverse ruling could gut the infrastructure of affirmative action across the country".

There is a paradox in this case, however, in that the appeal to the Supreme Court came not from Mrs Taxman but from the Piscataway school board itself. This was its genesis: Mrs Taxman was employed by another New Jersey school in 1992, but the board refused to give her back

pay. She sued, and was awarded \$144,000 by a federal judge. The board appealed, but the appeals court found for Mrs Taxman.

The board then appealed to the Supreme Court in Washington, which was due to hear the case on January 14.

In a separate case last year, the court ruled that admission by racial quota at the University of Texas law school was unconstitutional. More recently, it declined to hear a challenge to the constitutional validity of "Proposition 209", a California initiative which bans race and gender preference in employment and school admissions. Using pressure behind the scenes,

black rights activists convinced the school board to drop its appeal, agreeing to fund the lion's share of any out-of-court payment.

The Black Leadership Forum had been accused of "buying off" Mrs Taxman. The *New York Post* said in an editorial: "You might say that Piscataway's appeal died so that affirmative action might live."

The newspaper continued: "The 'diversity industry' couldn't afford to lose the case, and did what it did to save itself... The organised black leadership... is done trying to win through argument. Instead, it will try to maintain the quota regime by stealth."

WORLD IN BRIEF

Pentagon attacks dismissed pilot

Washington: Kelly Flinn, the former pilot who was the first woman to fly a B52 bomber, launched a book tour throughout the United States yesterday as she faced a backlash from the Pentagon about the affair that led to her dismissal from the US Air Force (Tom Rhodes writes).

The 15-city tour to promote *Proud to Be* has already prompted strong criticism from Air Force officials who said they failed to convey their side of the story at the time of her general discharge earlier this year. They say it was her lying, not the affair, that led to her departure. Ms Flinn, who resigned after a relationship with a married man, has said on television that she simply loved the wrong person.

Papon trial 'should end'

Paris: The trial of the accused Nazi collaborator Maurice Papon, 87, should be abandoned if his health continues to deteriorate, his lawyers argued as the latest medical bulletin indicated that proceedings, halted on Monday, could be delayed again (Ben Macintyre writes). M Papon was taken to a Bordeaux hospital with double pneumonia. The seven-week trial has been postponed frequently on health grounds.

Britons fight pet poisoning

Athens: Amanda and Phillip Stempbridge, a British couple working as lawyers in Greece, are launching a poster campaign against endemic pet poisonings after their dog died as they watched, when he ate spiked bread he had found on the ground (John Caro writes). Many Greek local authorities put poisoned food in streets and parks to reduce the numbers of stray cats and dogs.

Chancellor's life in song

Dortmund: An opera based on the life of Germany's late Chancellor Willy Brandt, whose normalization of relations with Eastern Europe won him the 1971 Nobel Peace Prize, received its premiere here. The opera, *Kneel Down in Warsaw*, features a scene recalling him kneeling in 1970 before the memorial in the Warsaw ghetto, where hundreds of thousands of Jews died under the Nazis. (AP)

Skydiver kills pilot

Rotterdam: A pilot was killed when his light aircraft spun out of control and crashed near Rheden after a skydiver struck its tail as he jumped out. The single-engine Cessna 206 had taken off from Rotterdam airport nearby with five parachutists. The pilot, who was not wearing a parachute, jumped clear as the plane hit the ground but died instantly. The injured skydiver was taken to hospital. (Reuters)

Toy' bomb kills children

Peshawar: A mine made to look like a child's toy exploded killing five children under ten in a remote corner of northwest Pakistan 90 miles southwest of here. Russian pilots dropped hundreds of thousands of the plastic "toy bombs", brightly coloured and looking like a butterfly, during the Soviet invasion of Afghanistan in the 1980s and thousands landed over the border in Pakistan. (AP)



Moro fugitive is arrested

Athens: Greece has arrested a fugitive Red Brigades guerrilla convicted in Italy of involvement in the 1978 kidnapping and murder of Aldo Moro, the former Italian Prime Minister, in Rome. Enrico Bianco, 45, right, who was sentenced in absentia to life in jail the same year, was found by police on a yacht off the western Greek town of Aktion on Saturday after a tip-off. He is expected to be extradited. (Reuters)

US rap star arrested

Stuttgart: Coolio, the American rap singer, was arrested and bailed twice over claims that a 29-year-old shopowner was punched in the stomach during an incident at a boutique when clothes were taken. German police said they arrested eight people in the town of Bobingen. Among Coolio's international hits was *Gangsta's Paradise* (Reuters)

Women flee Iranian jail

Tehran: Six women escaped from a jail in Tabriz, northwest Iran, after strangling a female guard and knocking another unconscious, Iran newspaper reported yesterday. Four of them were arrested immediately after their escape last week, but police were still searching for the other two. (AFP)

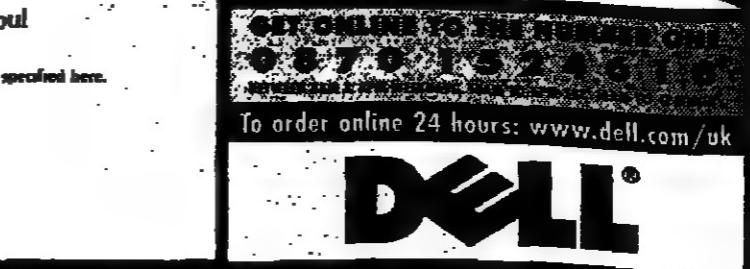
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Running on empty

IDEALISTS have long sought to get something for nothing. But those who inhabit the wilder shores of physics are now aiming to get something from nothing — from a vacuum, in fact. Even at absolute zero, quantum mechanics teaches a vacuum is not entirely empty. It contains so-called zero-point energy, which is responsible for some well-known effects.

One of them was predicted in 1948 by the Dutch physicist Hendrik Casimir, who worked out that if two metal plates were brought close enough to one another, they would attract each other very slightly. This is because the closeness of the plates allows only certain short-wavelength types of vacuum energy to fit in between them.

All other types continue to operate outside this tiny gap, creating a net pressure that drives the plates together. The effect, however implausible, is real. Dr Steve Lamoreaux of Los Alamos Laboratory in New Mexico measured it and found the force corresponds to the weight of a single blood cell.

Not a lot, then. But that has not stopped some physicists touting zero-point energy as the solution to the world's problems, as the *Scientific American* staff writer Philip Yam reports in the December issue of the magazine.

One of them is Dr Harold Puthoff, who runs the Institute for Advanced Studies in Austin, Texas. Dr Puthoff and his colleagues have examined some ten different devices during the past decade and found that none can tap into zero-point energy.

Dr Puthoff is not discouraged. He believes that zero-point energy may be the force



responsible for keeping atoms from collapsing — for maintaining electrons in orbit around the nucleus. If you could, in effect, use atoms as miniature Casimir plates, you could extract infinitely more energy than Dr Lamoreaux managed, he says.

That is because even a small volume of material contains a large number of atoms. He hints that the institute is working on such a device, but as yet, that is as much as he is willing to reveal.

More mainstream physicists consider this cranky. "I was rather dismayed at the attention from what I consider a kook community," Dr Lamoreaux told Mr Yam. "It trivialises and abuses my work."

He is also irritated that people he describes as pseudo-scientists get support for their research. Dr Puthoff does get some American Government funding, although most of his money comes from private firms.

The orthodox view is that zero-point energy exists, but in nothing like the quantities needed to provide an alternative to coal, oil, nuclear or solar energy.

Dr Peter Milonni, also of Los Alamos Laboratory, suggests that to extract meaningful amounts of energy, the plates would need to be kilometres long. Even then, they would have to be forced apart again, which would cost as much energy as had been generated in the first place.

All this sounds like a convincing demolition job, but zero-point enthusiasts still do not accept it. Why, they query, should the Los Alamos laboratory, home of the atom bomb, employ two experts on a subject with no practical application? To a conspiracist, there's no going with that.

Why grapefruit juice and drugs don't mix

TAKING certain drugs at the same time as drinking grapefruit juice is not recommended, because the juice has odd effects on the way the drugs are absorbed. The cause, it has been established, are substances in the juice called furanocoumarins which attach themselves to an enzyme in the small intestine. This enzyme normally breaks down the drugs, reducing their absorption, so drug doses are calculated to allow for that.

The effect of the juice is to block the enzyme, and thus greatly increase the effective dose. Drugs taken for high blood pressure, heart disease, and allergies may all be affected, depending on the individual patient. Dr Paul Watkins of the University of Michigan reports in *Drug Metabolism and Disposition* that two furanocoumarins are present in the juice, and that they have slightly different effects.

Dr Watkins sees the findings as an opportunity to improve the effectiveness of some drugs. He proposes incorporating them into pills, to increase absorption through the wall of the intestine.



The knowledgeable nutcrackers

BIRDS can bisect a line between two fixed points in order to locate hidden food, experiments at the University of Nebraska have shown. This helps to explain how a bird species called Clark's nutcrackers manage to rediscover the seeds they bury in different places.

Dr Alan Kamil and Jill Jones first trained caged birds to expect to find seeds buried midway between two plastic pipes serving as landmarks. Then they varied the spacing of the pipes at random, between about a foot and 3ft 6in apart. They still buried the seeds at the midpoint, and the nutcrackers were still able to find them, usually within the first few tries, they report in *Nature*.

This talent could prove very useful in the depth of winter, when it is important for the birds to locate food quickly and without wasting energy. "A beak is a very small shovel," points out Dr Kamil.

Whether they are also able to work out more complex geometrical relationships between fixed points such as trees remains unknown, but even the simple talent of bisection could be useful.

ARTS
 Has political correctness gone mad on the silver screen?
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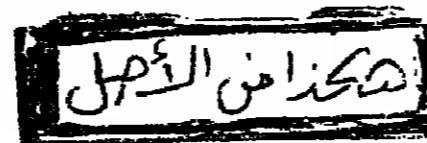
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Presence of the *Brucella* bacterium among dolphins, porpoises and seals off Britain's coasts has increased concerns over toxic pollution

Dolphins in danger

The first signs of trouble came in 1991, and were detected in a dead harbour porpoise washed ashore in the Moray Firth. The rare animal was found to be infected with a potentially deadly bacterium called *Brucella*.

The discovery triggered great concern among scientists studying marine mammals. In land animals such as cattle, sheep, goats and dogs, the bacterium infects the uterus and placenta, inducing spontaneous abortions. Male reproductive organs can also become inflamed and damaged.

To see if the Moray Firth finding was an isolated case or a harbinger of worse to come, a team from the Institute of Zoology in London has been testing for *Brucella* antibodies in frozen blood and heart fluid samples collected from marine animals found stranded around the coast of England and Wales since 1989.

The findings, published in the latest edition of the *Veterinary Record*, show that the bacterium is widespread among porpoises, dolphins and seals. A significant number of samples from 1990 onwards shows signs of contamination.

The new research forms part of the Marine Mammals Stranding Project, funded by the Department of the Environment and conducted by the institute. The study focused on 153 marine mammals stranded between 1989 and 1995.

The researchers were hunting for antibodies produced in response to *Brucella* infection.

'Humans have put marine mammals under stress'

They were detected in six out of 62 grey seals, and one out of 12 common seals. There was more to come — 11 out of 35 harbour porpoises tested positive. And among common dolphins, antibodies were found in nine out of 29 animals.

Antibodies were also isolated from a striped dolphin, a bottlenose dolphin, a killer whale and a pilot whale.

In addition, Geoffrey Foster, from the Scottish Agricultural College in Inverness, says they have now managed to culture *Brucella* from samples taken from a white-beaked dolphin, an Atlantic white-sided dolphin, and from grey and hooded seals.

Paul Jepson of the Institute of Zoology, and an expert on dolphins and porpoises, says it is possible that the bacterium had been carried by the ancestors of modern dolphins and porpoises millions of years ago, as they evolved into marine mammals.

But it was also possible that the bacterium emerged more recently from a source such as agricultural run-off. There is a precedent — Mr Jepson says studies have shown that an infection known as sea lion virus, which affects sea lions, is almost identical to a virus found in pigs.

Cardigan Bay, West Wales and the Moray Firth.

Of the animals that die, only a tiny fraction are washed ashore and find their way into laboratories.

Brucella may have a far greater hold than the latest findings suggest. Conservationists say the findings underline the need to reduce toxic pollution and other threats to these beautiful creatures, especially harbour porpoises.

The findings indicate that more than 110,000 may have been exposed to the bacterium. The population of common dolphins is unknown. But the bottlenose dolphin population numbers about 300, and they live mainly in and around

and porpoises to fight disease.

The findings are likely to increase pressure on the Government to set up "stress-free" marine conservation areas for porpoises and dolphins.

In such areas, potentially harmful activities ranging from oil exploration and dredging to leisure pursuits such as jet skiing, are more rigorously, and legally, controlled.

Wildlife groups want such areas to be listed under the European Habitats and Species Directive.

"Our limited knowledge shows that these marine mammals are under enormous stress from the impact of

humans," Mr Stroud says. "So just as our immune systems suffer when we are run down, these marine mammals may be unable properly to fight the effects of this bacterium."

The researchers now plan to search for *Brucella* more vigorously during routine post-mortems and to try to match reproductive organ disease with the bacterium.

"We have got to carry on doing the post-mortems and build up more data. The problem with *Brucella* is that it is very slow and very difficult to grow," says Mr Jepson.

They also want to attempt to unravel possible methods of transmission.

There is some evidence that bacterial infections are transmitted via parasites such as nematode worms, which prey on marine mammals.

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Nothing but sex, clothes and boyfriends?

The Social Affairs Unit's survey of women's magazines is arrogant and misleading, says Tina Gaudoin

READING the new pamphlet by the Social Affairs Unit is a bit like being buttonholed by a London cabbie: you are overwhelmed by the crudity of the polemic. For what ought to have been a thoughtful survey, exploring complex questions of women's identity, sexuality and professional aspiration, amounts to little more than a roar of regret at the supposed ills of modernity.

From Anne Applebaum to Janet Daley and from Digby Anderson to Kenneth Minogue, the contributors to *The British Woman Today* are united in their contempt for the "depressing" culture of women's magazines. The archetypal reader of these publications, caricatured as "Magazine Woman", is selfish, sex-obsessed, trivial, lazy, intellectually incurious and morally vacuous. As Ms Daley puts it: "For [Magazine Woman] morality is entirely a matter of personal preference: no one's values are inherently better than anyone else's."

For Digby Anderson, arguing that women's sexual obsession is really part of a wider obsession with self, there is "coarseness, savagery and voyeurism in the monotonously sexual language of Magazine Woman".

Were we wrong to expect better from the Social Affairs Unit, a respected independent think-tank funded by charitable donations from business and private individuals? For running beneath this ocean of rhetoric and *ex cathedra* statement is a strong current of truth. Many women's magazines are unusually interested in sex and fashion; their world view is alarmingly narrow.

But, perhaps, the mistake is to take women's magazines too seriously, to read them literally, and so failing to see them for what they are a harmless diversion from the struggle of daily life.

JASON COWLEY

Question: what does the aptly named Social Affairs Unit (SAU) hope to gain from its scarily prurient analysis of women's magazines? Answer: mounds of publicity in the form of rabid female editors hotly defending their art, and explosive tabloid headlines that are readily offered in the preface of this highly amusing pamphlet, *Magazine Woman lives in a value-free world*. Shock, horror, soundbite.

Yes, there's more than a grain of truth in what the unit has to say. There's unquestionably a view among many magazine editors that their readers "want" little more than a glossy filled with sex, relationships and fashion. "Magazine Woman's life is a round of indulgences of a distinctly tawdry kind," it says. And there is certainly room in the market for an intelligent, irreverent, formulaic sex-free magazine (cue *Frank*). But what's truly tragic is that the SAU and its humour-free contributors really believe that the British woman is dumb enough to be negatively influenced by what



Digby Anderson

she reads in glossy magazines which are, by all accounts, regarded as a luxury.

What's even more worrying is the indignant highbrow tone. Apparently, Magazine Woman is "indifferent to literature, art, learning and civic responsibility". Shades of the *über* class writing a thesis on the underclass — only for these arrogant academics, "them", just happen to be the four million women of every age

and social group who pick up a women's magazine regularly, providing "some kind of vote of approval" to magazines that write about "vices as virtues". Oh dear, the unit seems to have fallen under the spell of the very thing that it condemns — believing a synthetic value system as purveyed by the glossies.

The SAU's publicity-seeking agenda is given away far too early, with the puerile mention of — yes, you guessed it, Girl Power — characterised by faithlessness and the enjoyment of drunken pranks once associated with adolescent boys. Oh dear, the SAU really has bought into the Spice Girl hype. Have a Pepsi. Haven't they ever heard of escapism, fun, or as men's magazines would term it, "having a laugh"? Do they really think women read magazines with the same po-faced that they have clearly pulled in by the writing of these articles?

There's much mention of the kitchen and the bedroom — what could be simpler for the SAU than to draw on that time-honoured feminist polemic of mother and whore? According to Professor Keith Minogue: "MW has escaped from the kitchen only to get as far as the bedroom." He wishes. And talking of SAU fantasies: "Magazine Woman exhibits a predatory and aggressive attitude in her search for sexual conquest." Is reading about it, or writing about it, the same as doing it? I don't think so.

And then there's the admonishment of magazines that focus on the saving of time and effort where cooking is concerned. Oh, no. Not advice on labour-saving for the working woman. Apparently, magazines like *Bella* and *Prima* score points because they purvey "deeply held lower-middle-class virtues" of marriage, stability and motherhood (Dr Mylene Harris).

MW finds reality rather awkward, reads one sub-head. One gets the feeling that the same could be said of the SAU writers. There's an insecurity running beneath their condemnations of MW. If she really is to be believed — a sexually rampant, alcohol-swilling, immoral opportunist — then, the SAU reasoning seems to be, the survival of mankind is surely threatened. Perhaps that's what lies beneath their complaints that Magazine Woman is "child free": Anne Applebaum rightly points out that how to balance children with work is the issue that worries most women.

In contrast to what the SAU says, magazines like *Harpers & Queen*, *Tatler* and *The Lady* all feature children. The younger magazines like *Elle*, *Cosopolitan* and *She* are less likely to make children a focus, since they are marketed at younger readers. The SAU admires an entire *Cosopolitan* supplement, *Sex and Your Body* at 20, 30, 40, for not mentioning children once. Well, unless MW is a practising Roman Catholic, there's surely very little reason for her to think of "intercourse" and procreation in the same thought or the same supplement.

WHAT THE EDITORS SAY

• Marie O'Riordan, editor of *Elle*: "A women's magazine is all about fantasy and escapism. They don't buy magazines for a reality check. Their thinking is, This is for me." The writers haven't given any thought to why these magazines sell in such large numbers."

• Fiona Macpherson, editor of *Harpers & Queen*: "If Anthony Flew imagines that *Harpers & Queen* is aimed at your normal suburban housewife he knows nothing about women's magazines or women. *Harpers & Queen* is aimed at women who love the best of everything. Most of our readers have children, but don't want to read about them."

• Jane Procter, editor of *Tatler*: "These writers don't even seem to realise that *Tatler* is a satirical magazine. But then, if you're not an academic, maybe you've never learnt to view life with a sense of humour. *Tatler* is about being incredibly rich, and consuming, and having lots of fun."

• Jackie Higgin, editor of *Bella*: "It's not entirely surprising that the

many male contributors to this piece of 'research' are out of touch with what women might want or care about. But it saddens me that the women contributors seem to know still less."

• Mandi Norwood, editor of *Cosopolitan*: "I see this bunch of academics sitting round pontificating and intellectualising over something that is there to inspire and encourage women. And I know from our mountains of correspondence that this is exactly what we do."

• Fiona McIntosh, editor of *Company*: "Just looking at the list of writers, I'd be concerned if they did have anything in common with *Company* readers. It's not for them. It's for young, single girls in their twenties who love having fun and don't have big commitments."

• Juliet Warkentin, editor of *Marie Claire*: "Marie Claire presents its features in an interesting and non-judgmental manner. Our investigative reporting has won us three Amnesty International Awards — a record unmatched by any UK publication."

'Haven't they ever heard of escapism or having a laugh?'

whether they really ought to have considered undertaking a proper, qualified study into the mass media in general. Their paper raises more questions than it answers — but not on the topic they were addressing. For a start, it raises the question of how serious, smart academics and writers like Janet Daley and Anne Applebaum were duped into writing earnestly about the one tiny segment of the mass media which has always been derogatively judged as lightweight fluff. Why the sudden flattering turnaround? At the risk of repeating the obvious — why, if women's magazines are suddenly deemed to be so influential — were not papers included on the damaging stereotypes purveyed by men's magazines? Why were the persuasive, emotive worlds of TV, movies and advertising ignored — what happened to TV Woman or Movie Woman?

What's most transparent about the SAU study is the glee with which the writers devoured their magazines and approached the subject. I wouldn't be surprised if the whole lot of them have taken our subscriptions.

The author is Editor of *Frank* magazine

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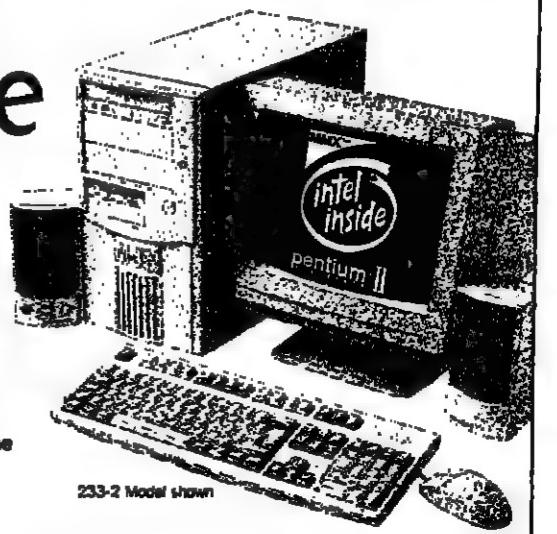
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The Great Man theory of history is dead. So dodo is its state that even to muse on it is to be mocked. But is its death merely a fashion? What if fashion, that most seductive of social vices, has buried great men foolishly? (Of course there have been and are Great Women too. But for the sake of this argument perhaps I'll be permitted to concentrate on the masculine.)

The matter has come up because of science, Roman history and world religion. On *Giant Shoulders*, the Radio 4 science series with which I am associated, raised some hackles when Professor Lewis Wolpert offered the hypothesis — emphatically, as is his trademark — that Archimedes could well be thought of as the individual who began what the West has known ever since as science. Not technology, not engineering, not adding or subtracting, but scientific thought — something which, by implication, was happened on and therefore might never have happened at all.

The Roman history is to be seen on BBC2 in the television series currently taking us through the Roman Empire on the backs of six of its mightiest emperors. It gives them what many may consider to be vastly over-credited importance in the scheme of things.

My religious reference is from a series I am preparing for ITV investigating world religions with leading representatives from various denominations.

In religion, history and science, the swing away from a view which prevailed widely into the 20th century — that Great Men could change the world — has been so dramatic that you never today hear a murmur against it. It has Stalinistically stamped out opposition. But when a theory prevalent for many millennia, a theory moreover which accords with the durnal experience of even the

most mundane existence, is so comprehensively expelled from intellectual respectability, then surely some investigation is required.

The best starting point, as often to uncover a crime, is to look first to the arts. Question: Had Shakespeare not been born would we have had Shakespearean literature? An individual can make an essential, a cultural life-changing difference?

Why then do we now rear up in such battalions when it is suggested that Great Men can make a history-changing, or a religion-changing, or a science-changing difference? That they can by their own singular powers shift along the world that discernible bit?

The reasons for the death of Great Men are easy to hand and emotionally I am in sympathy with many of them. It was galling and seemed not only unjust but

MELVYN BRAGG



unlikely that the whole of English history could have been the work of a rather limited struggle of Great Men. Who were in the armies? Where were the economies, the plagues, the multiple

strands of the interweaving of life? Marxian intellectualised, to some extent, the perceptions of those who simply could not accept that the primary forces in society were a few Greats who pulled all the levers. Society in all its complexity, the people with all their massive weight, the wider environment in its Hydra-headed unpredictability ... the permutations here far outweighed, surely, any life of a single puny man. Great Men were relegated to the margins of the new Universe every bit as remorselessly as the Earth itself has been relegated to the margins since the time of Copernicus.

And yet the Earth is still, it seems to me, the centre of curiosity, of universal understanding. Might not, then, the Great Man be resurrected for a role, even a pivotal role in our narrative?

In religion, too, would Chris-

tianity have taken hold without first Christ and then Constantine; or Islam without Muhammad? In these and other cases it is always possible to invoke society and inevitability. But what was inevitable about an ascetic Jewish anarchist in a remote satellite of the Roman world beginning a sect whose force, several hundred years later, influenced a British-born homosexual lover of Greek art to adopt this Christian cult as the Imperial religion? Surely this has to be explained in some significant measure by the character and power of the Galilean prophet and the Roman Emperor.

And is this wholly foreign to science? Einstein's admiration for Newton was such that he regarded him as an original begetter, one without whose work progress in science might well not have taken place in the way it did. To overemphasise Great Men too often is clearly a mistake. To underestimate the actions of some Great Men is surely no less mistaken.

The film of *Keep the Aspidistra Flying* is yet another example of PC gone mad, says Daniel Britten

George Orwell must be turning in his grave. The man who proclaimed that truth is more important than politics has now had his novel *Keep the Aspidistra Flying* turned into the sort of trivial romantic comedy that he despised. It is part of a growing tendency among filmmakers to bowdlerise literary texts, often along politically correct lines, with little regard for what the authors themselves might have said.

Orwell wrote *Aspidistra* when he was a struggling writer working part-time in a Hampstead bookshop. The hero of the novel is Gordon Comstock, a poverty-stricken young poet who is forced to abandon his career and return to his old job as an advertising copywriter. Gordon's girlfriend, Rosemary, threatens to leave him if he does not get a proper job, and he becomes obsessed with the idea that a man must conform to ideas of success in order to attract women. "Don't you see that a man's whole personality is bound up with his income?" he tells Rosemary. "His personality is his income. How can you be attractive to a girl when you've got no money?"

Orwell wrote the book after having himself been rejected by his fiancée, probably on financial grounds, and critics have traditionally seen Comstock as a deliberate attempt to create a cult of failure in men. In this sense he belongs to a long line of male rebels in 20th-century literature.

In the film, however, adapted by Alan Plater and Bob Bierman, gone is Orwell's passionate protest against the twin evils of capitalism and the sex war. Instead, Comstock, played by Richard E. Grant, has become a nerdy social misfit who finally accepts his responsibilities and settles down to a safe, middle-class existence. In addition, his girlfriend, Rosemary (Helena Bonham Carter), has been turned into a feisty 1990s career woman who convinces Gordon that his responsibility lies with the family, not poetry.

Bierman, also the film's director, says he had to make "structural changes" to the film in order to make it more accessible to a modern audience. As for reinterpreting Orwell's views on the sex war, Bierman claims that "Comstock, like Orwell, was a jerk about women" and that he was "far better off as a copywriter than he was as a poet".



Helena Bonham Carter and Richard E. Grant in a *Keep the Aspidistra Flying* that eschews social commentary in favour of romantic comedy

Who needs Orwell that ends well?

It seems that the pressure on film-makers to make changes such as these is growing as political aspirations fuse with commercial considerations. Last year, in Roland Joffé's adaptation of Hawthorne's classic *The Scarlet Letter*, Hester Prynne, played by Demi Moore, became a spokeswoman for women's rights at a time when the emancipation of women hadn't even been heard of.

Similarly, in the forthcoming

adaptation of *Sacred Hunger*, Barry Unsworth's novel about the slave trade, Sir Peter Hall was told by American investors to cut out all references to black slave traders because they were afraid it would lose the film money at the box office. Hall resisted and Channel 4 eventually funded the entire project itself.

The controversy surrounding such changes raises the profound question as to whether a text should be altered simply because it no longer reflects the attitudes of the contemporary audience. The recent adaptation of Anthony Powell's *A Dance to the Music of Time* was a perfect illustration of the confusion that now surrounds the issue. Hugh Whitemore, the adapter, was accused of covering up racism because he neglected to include the following passage: "It was the negro. He was grinning from ear to ear, now more like a nigger minstrel — a coon with bones and tam-

bouine from some old-fashioned show on the pier at a seaside resort of the Victorian era — than his former dignified, well-groomed self." The passage is unquestionably offensive, but what would the furore have been had Whitemore included it?

Film-makers have traditionally had scant regard for the authenticity of an author's work, but it seems to have increased as respect for the written word diminishes. The paucity of good scripts appears to be forcing film-makers to cast the net ever wider in their search for ideas. It seems only a matter of time before we get the musical version of Orwell's 1984 or Marx's *Kapital* turned into a thriller.

Hall believes that there is something far more sinister at work. He argues that a kind of "particularistic Stalinism" is now invading the media, in which today's left-wing and liberal

censorship has replaced the right-wing censorship of previous eras. This has not only begun to stifle freedom of speech, but is also preventing art from doing the things it should be doing naturally: challenging perceptions.

Bierman maintains that the changes he made to Orwell's book were justified because Orwell could not have anticipated what life in the 1990s would be like, and because they make for a better film. He sees Comstock less as a passionate advocate of men's rights and more as a comic representation of old sexist attitudes, arguing that Orwell would have found his adaptation "amusing".

In fact, Orwell loathed the type of Hollywood film that gosses over heartfelt social protest in favour of romantic comedy, and in his brief spell as a film reviewer condemned American producers for not having more faith in the intelligence of their audience. "It is always assumed that anything demanding thought, or even suggesting thought, must be avoided."

Professor Bernard Crick, the eminent Orwell biographer, says: "It is perfectly fatuous of modern film and theatre producers to believe that by updating things you are making it easier for a modern audience." In reality, he maintains, enforcing such homogeneity makes it harder for people to understand prejudice, not easier. Although he has not yet seen Bierman's film, he also points out that Orwell's message has lost

its bite: "Comstock is not a Lucky Jim figure. He represents the serious hopes that Orwell had for the young poets and literary men of the 1930s who didn't succeed. He wanted them to be honoured for trying and perhaps failing, but he would never have turned them into comic caricatures."

Perhaps Orwell's message is simply too subtle for the modern imagination. In making Comstock reluctantly abandon his career as a poet, he recognised the insurmountability of the pressures on men that still exist, but which film-makers are reluctant to examine. It is no coincidence that he was one of the first to denounce the "ideologically correct" attitudes of 1980s politics. One wonders what he would have made of today's atmosphere of self-censorship.

• *Keep the Aspidistra Flying* opens on Friday

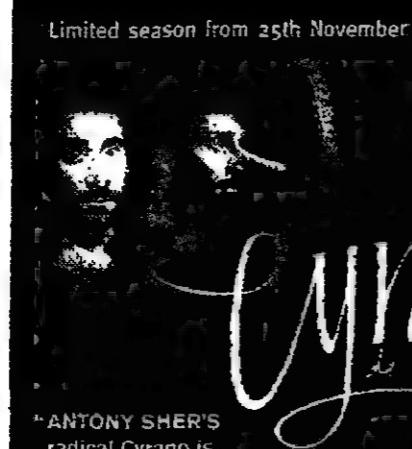
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RS

You, too, can help to save London

Richard Rogers on an intriguing initiative to reinvigorate the capital

When the Culture Secretary Chris Smith launches the Architecture Foundation's computer archive known as London Interactive today, a significant step will be taken to involve Londoners in the future of their city.

Nine out of ten Britons now live in cities, most of them communities of more than 100,000 people. This startling statistic reveals us to be predominantly urbanised — yet we see ourselves as a rural people who only grudgingly accept city life. This perception has led to the widespread neglect of cities and threatened the countryside, as more and more people flee to the supposed arcadian delights of a house and garden in an idyllic village, surrounded by green, rolling and ever-inspoli countryside.

The countryside and the city are, however, two sides of the same coin. Both demand our vigilance, but it is the spread of cities and the inefficient manner in which they function that is the most fundamental threat to the quality of urban and rural life. Only by investing in the quality of city living can we consolidate urban communities, while protecting the countryside.

We are told that Britain needs 4.4 million new households by 2020, the equivalent of another London spreading across the country. If the pressure to build these new homes in the countryside is not resisted, we will, see an inevitable erosion of that countryside and a huge outflow of funds from city centres. And the problems will not stop there. New developments outside existing towns and cities imply a massive exodus of families, schools, services and shops from areas which are in many cases already deprived of resources and desperate for cash. Worse still would be the pollution caused by thinly spread development relying on cars rather than public transport.

This is a worldwide problem: cities, particularly those in the West, create the lion's share of global pollution. As a result, not only the global ecology is damaged, but the local environment and the quality of urban life suffer, too. Cities can be designed to be far more efficient with the use of energy, water and other resources and their impact on the environment can be reduced — but they must be planned to do so. Recycling, for example, is a component of urban strategy. Some cities of North America and northern Europe already recycle up to 75 per cent of their waste. London, by contrast, recycles at most 5 per cent.

Stemming the flow of people and resources from cities requires us to improve the quality of life in them by creating vibrant meeting places, and by making them more attractive, healthier, safer and greener — all principles of sustainable development.

Britain's cities contain between 5 and 20 per cent of derelict or under-used land. A good proportion of this is in small-scale sites, but there are also large areas of dereliction, often on post-industrial polluted sites — the so-called brownland. London is no exception.

Asian economic turmoil — plus an unlikely sex scandal — could have a devastating impact on the West

When Lyndon Johnson was President, the White House used to defend American involvement in the Vietnam War by the so-called "domino" effect. That was the geo-political theory that a Communist victory in South Vietnam would be followed by a complete takeover in South-East Asia: Vietnam, Cambodia and Laos would be followed by Thailand, Malaysia, perhaps Singapore and Indonesia, perhaps even Australia. The Communists did conquer South Vietnam, but the dominoes did not fall all.

Now it is fashionable to describe the financial crisis in Asia as another domino effect. Unfortunately that would be much more plausible. Today President Clinton is having talks with Asian leaders at the Asia-Pacific Economic Co-operation Forum in Vancouver. They will be discussing the currency devaluations, banking crises and stock market falls which have been spreading from one Asian country to another. The first of all was Thailand in early July; several other dominoes have already fallen, Malaysia, Indonesia, the Philippines, and South Korea. Now there is a nasty wobble in Japan. Hong Kong has not been forced to cut the link to the dollar, but the property and stock markets have been affected.

President Clinton is open about his fear that the financial contagion could spread to the United States. On his way to Vancouver he emphasised that the Asian and American economies were linked. "With such deep stakes in the region, our security and economic interests must go hand in hand... one of our top priorities will be the strengthening and stabilising of Asian financial markets so that their economies and ours stay on the right track."

It is Japan which matters most.

The Japanese economy is second in size only to that of the United States;

Does Mrs A spell ruin for us all?

Japan is an extremely successful world exporter, with a large and rising trade surplus with the United States. Japanese savings provide the basis for the whole of international finance; without Japanese investment, the finances of the United States, particularly the federal bond market would be destabilised. If the Japanese domino falls, the American and European dominoes are unlikely to stay upright. The global economy would then be facing a recession, perhaps even a stamp. That was what happened in the early 1990s: the great slump started with the failure of the Kredit Anstalt, an Austrian bank.

Although President Clinton recognises the danger, he is by no means the master of the global economy. He re-emphasised yesterday that America can policy has two pillars. One is that each individual nation "must take responsibility for putting sound economic policies in place"; the other is that the IMF and not America must be the provider of external funds.

There will be no American bail-out. In the case of Japan this may not matter; in terms both of the current account and of capital reserves, Japan is richer than the United States. Japan, as such, does not need bailing out; the Japanese banking system does. The trouble started with the great Japanese boom of the 1980s. That was the decade when the Japanese stock market went through the roof; the Japanese have been big

savers since the war, and their flow of savings pushed asset values absurdly high. By the late 1990s it was being said that the notional real estate value of the Emperor's garden in Tokyo was equal to that of the state of Florida. The banks loaned Japanese companies cheap money to buy shares and property at these values, and that lending pushed the asset prices still higher. Interest rates were so low that it seemed almost criminal not to borrow; some of the people who did borrow have

hoped that the situation would be corrected, that ultra-low interest rates would refloat the banks; that the stock market would recover — as it did for a time, though never to its 1989 level — and that the property market would be stabilised. The Japanese Government did its rather ineffective best, but failed to resolve the problem. The Japanese economy was already looking weak when the Thai crisis occurred last July. South-East Asia is important to Japan because of the large Japanese investments and because it is a big export market and an export competitor. The fall of the smaller dominoes jolted South Korea, which in its turn has threatened Japan, the second largest domino.

If Japan fails, we would have to look carefully at the stability of the European Union and the United States. Both have very highly priced stock markets; despite its resistance to the earlier Asian shocks, Wall Street would have a long way to fall if Japan went into financial collapse.

Naturally the weak institutions have failed first. Last week it was Yamaichi, one of Japan's big four stockbrokers; its failure amounts to about £15 billion, which is large even by Japanese standards. After eight years, the Japanese Ministry of Finance has failed to strengthen the financial structure of the country. It now has what looks to be a last chance. There is not going to be a spontaneous recovery in Japanese confidence; things have gone too far.

Either the Japanese Government will find a way to underwrite the big banks so that their credit has been put beyond doubt, or the panic can be expected to spread and get worse.

That is the judgment that President Clinton will be putting to the Japa-

nese Prime Minister, Ryutaro Hashimoto, in Vancouver. Unfortunately, Mr Hashimoto's political position, which would be difficult enough in any case, has been weakened by a sex scandal. That is unusual in Japan, where a French view of politicians' private lives usually prevails. Unfortunately "Mrs A", as the Japanese press is calling her, is Chinese; even more unfortunately, she is alleged to have been on the staff of the Chinese security agency responsible for spying on Japan. Mr Hashimoto admits knowing Mrs A, though he told Parliament: "I was not seeing her with the idea that she was an intelligence agent." As a distraction, this scandal comes at the worst possible moment. It would be a pity if Mrs A inadvertently caused a world stamp.

If Japan fails, we would have to look carefully at the stability of the European Union and the United States. Both have very highly priced stock markets; despite its resistance to the earlier Asian shocks, Wall Street would have a long way to fall if Japan went into financial collapse.

Of course, one thinks the Japanese will get it right in the end. Human beings are not crazy, they react to events; the Japanese do not want their system to collapse. That is what I do think: indeed, the timing of the Yamaichi announcement suggests that the Japanese authorities are more in control of events than might appear. The announcement was made on Saturday; Today is a holiday in Japan. The Ministry of Finance has until tomorrow morning to prepare and announce the measures it will take. If they are adequate then the world will breathe a sigh of relief, and the Japanese banking system will have been saved. If not, a game of Japanese roulette will have turned out rather badly.

Wrestling with the demons

Moral crusades do not make the world a safer place, says Peter Riddell

The Blair Government is turning out to be remarkably conservative, even traditional, in its foreign policy. Forget all the glib talk about the rebranding of Britain, and even Robin Cook's new "ethical dimension". The basics are little changed. There has, admittedly, been a shift in attitudes towards Europe, and relations have improved. But the aim is still for Britain, in Douglas Hurd's memorable phrase, to "punch above its weight in the world", to be a global player via our seat on the United Nations Security Council, as opposed to acting just via Europe. Over the past three weeks, Britain has remained as staunch, and lonely, an ally of the United States in its confrontation with Saddam Hussein as it was in the Thatcher and Major years. And, on Friday, Mr Cook delivered a robust brush-off to Spain over Gibraltar. Palmerston would have approved.

The rhetoric of modernisation — the Mission Statement video and Mr Cook's brisk style — has obscured continuities of policy, and exaggerated differences. It is understandable that Mr Cook wants to be a new broom, sweeping away stuffy and closed habits in the Foreign Office — and there is a lot more to be done. But, so far, there has been little evidence of any real rethinking of where Britain's interests lie in the post-Cold War era.

By chance, Lord Hurd of Westwell has just raised many of these issues in a compelling television series on BBC2, *The Search for Peace*, which he has developed in a more discursive book of the same title. The two are complementary. Lord Hurd's theme, reinforced by vivid archive film, is the

interplay of realism and idealism in explaining the success of the Vienna settlement after Waterloo (with some breakdowns), the failure of the Versailles settlement after the First World War, and the relative success (at least for Western Europe) of the 1945 settlement. He is most critical of the idealists and moralists, notably Woodrow Wilson and John Foster Dulles.

This is, in part, an Anglicised version of Henry Kissinger's *Diplomacy* — and Dr K is one of the star interviewees. Lord Hurd is often seen as the epitome of the Foreign Office realist working with the grain of the world as it is. While he was more right than his critics over Bosnia, British policy became too passive and hand-wringing in the pre-Dayton period.

However, the striking feature of

doctrine to justify intervention. Some have talked of intervening only when horrors threaten to cross boundaries and threaten peace in a region. This would, Lord Hurd argues, justify action over Rwanda, conceivably with those who know little about the matter. You also score up difficulties for yourself as your claim to a superior morality bumps into the roughness of the real world. Mr Cook is, at heart, a realist. His sense of irony should deter him from talking about the "People's Foreign Policy". But there are also dangers in adopting moralistic rhetoric. There are solid, national interest grounds for preventing Saddam Hussein from threatening the rest of us with biological and chemical weapons. It hinders, rather than assists, clear-sighted policymaking to present this as an ethical matter. Intervention may be right, but not a moral crusade.

isation such as Nato. Last night's final film showed the example of Eastern Slavonia, where the American General Klein heads a UN team running a district of 150,000 Serbs and Croats in rebuilding civic services. Lord Hurd suggests that this kind of international trusteeship may be needed in countries or areas where government has collapsed.

This approach offers a sensible blend of realism and idealism which should appeal to Mr Cook. Indeed, the Foreign Secretary has recently played down references to an "ethical foreign policy", words which he has never used, and talked more of enlightened self-interest.

So far, the "ethical dimension", his preferred term, has amounted to the pursuit of alleged war-crimes in Bosnia (though not yet the big names), a stronger line on banning landmines, stopping the export of weapons of torture, and the cancellation of two very small arms contracts in Indonesia. The announcement of the latter just before the Labour conference was widely seen as a gesture to please party activists — and was reluctantly accepted by the Ministry of Defence on that basis. But there has been no real change in Britain's position as a major arms exporter.

The hype has irritated his predecessors, such as Lord Hurd: "If you alter the course of policy by two or three degrees and pretend that you are altering it by 180 degrees, you achieve some immediate applause from those who know little about the matter. You also score up difficulties for yourself as your claim to a superior morality bumps into the roughness of the real world." Mr Cook is, at heart, a realist. His sense of irony should deter him from talking about the "People's Foreign Policy". But there are also dangers in adopting moralistic rhetoric. There are solid, national interest grounds for preventing Saddam Hussein from threatening the rest of us with biological and chemical weapons. It hinders, rather than assists, clear-sighted policymaking to present this as an ethical matter. Intervention may be right, but not a moral crusade.

Pour relations

THE RUDE health of the Queen has failed to impress Britain's marquesses: they are already squabbling about who will pour the wine at the Prince of Wales' coronation banquet.

Protocol dictates that the rather servile task be carried out by the Chief Butler of Ireland, an hereditary title invented by Henry II and meted out to one of his more sycophantic subjects. It was last held by the Marquess of Ormonde, who died in Chicago last month aged 98. He had no son.

Enter Lord Mountgarret of Harrogate (Eton, Irish Guards, three wives), who descends, apparently, from Henry VII and warns the job. "If there is any likelihood whatsoever that I can prove my claim then I will," says Mountgarret, 60, a determined sort of chap who once shot down hot-air balloon for disturbing one of his pheasant shoots.

While Mountgarret and his lawyers trawl through Burke's Peerage, the College of Arms is loudly dismissing their cause. "This is nonsense," says the Richmond Herald. "He and Ormonde shared one common ancestor back in the 16th century — it's just not good enough. There are hundreds of Ormondes with much stronger claims. What's so special about this one?"

The dispute might yet be settled by Prince Charles. George IV's Chief Butler poured out so much



this on the late arrival of Princess Margaret. I am now assured that she was advised to arrive a little after the normal dining hour.

Taylor made

ELIZABETH TAYLOR's extraordinary prowess at renewing her husband's has been formally acknowledged in Japan, where a magazine has been named after her. The subject? Divorce, and how to go about it. *Liz*, the first issue of which sold 50,000 copies last month, offers advice on finding the best divorce lawyer, being a single parent, and, well, being like Ms Taylor.

IT was noted here, and later elsewhere, that guests were growing peckish at the dinner to celebrate Lord Sainsbury's 70th birthday as they waited some time for their grub. Some guests unfairly blamed

Albert Hall. The end was in sight, when 10 o'clock struck and the entire cast downed tissues and went home. "They had been told it would finish at 10," explains a staffed tuxedo, "and they knew the Royal Opera House couldn't afford to pay them overtime."

No show

APPEASING the culinary principles of Linda McCartney is an expensive business. Last month she agreed to attend a £6,000-a-head



dinner for the New York charity Citymeals-on-Wheels, on one condition: no one in the room was to eat fish or meat. Sooner or later their only celebrity guest, the organisers capitulated and served up a depressing sort of dinner — organic carrots, shallow-fried bean-sprouts, all Linda's favourites. Sadly, she never turned up. Says a deflated charity boss: "She decided to stay in England and help her husband with some music project."

Batting on

A CONGENITAL winter is in store for John Major. The cricketing fanatic and sometime PM will jet out to Jamaica in January to support our boys against the West Indies. Major's knowledge of the game is legendary and the Windies have invited him to address the opening banquet in Kingston, England.

DO THERE are hard hearts among the cast of Otello. Last week found them dress-rehearsing at the Royal

Sally Potter. Some 10,000 invitations were sent out to London's low-budget flick set, bidding them attend the screening in Chelsea, followed by a £50-a-head party at the Fulham Town Hall — pina coladas, Swansea dancing troupe, that sort of thing.

PROBLEM: "The Royal Mail forgot to set up a PO box," claims a defeated voice at the film's producers, Adventure Pictures. "They returned every reply and cheque to sender. It is a disaster. We've booked the town hall, we've paid the musicians, but no one's coming."

Peers awake

THOSE somnolent crossbench peers have at last been roused into action: they have held a secret crisis meeting in response to Labour's sporadic threats to introduce an elected second chamber. More than 100 hereditary and life peers are believed to have attended.

The defence will be led by Lord Weatherill, the former Commons Speaker. Tony Blair has already agreed that our 522 Members will hold the balance of influence in any vote, "he says confidently. Weatherill's army might turn nasty. "We need so many MPs," he demands. "You can't change one House and not the other."



Helena: undress rehearsal
● THE ART OF undressing men has yet to be mastered by Helena Bonham Carter, who has been cast in the set of a rather salacious drama, *Wings of the Dove*. "I had to take my trousers off," she says. "It's very difficult. I got hysterical when I looked at it. I looked as if I was laughing down but I hadn't even looked. I was so discreet."

JASPER GERARD



BROWN AND GREEN

The Treasury should open up the Budget box

The Chancellor's statement to the House of Commons tomorrow will say much about the state of the economy. Most of that message will be positive and popular: steady growth; stable inflation; rising tax revenues and lower public borrowing. However, it will also speak volumes about this Government's commitment to a more open and inclusive style of politics. This has been billed as the "green Budget" — a conscious consultative event which allows Gordon Brown to offer his thinking and key policy options well in advance of the final Finance Act. If so, it would go well beyond the standard analysis and information that the Treasury has historically offered.

Almost every Opposition has favoured open government; invariably, once it is elected, its enthusiasm ebbs away. The theoretical advantages of a provisional Budget, or at least an initial set of ideas, are great. It allows policy to be constructed by consultation. Expertise outside the Treasury can have a real impact. Mistakes made in the past might be anticipated. The circulation of relevant data might oblige all parties to be rather more realistic. Parliament as an institution can have the opportunity to involve itself in the whole enterprise. The electorate at large can be much better informed.

There have, though, always been powerful objections. Secrecy, for all its faults, has certain persuasive virtues. A Chancellor who was too frank, too far in advance, especially on matters of personal taxation, could cause a stampede into various schemes for avoidance. Candour, if delivered in too strong a measure, unleashes a multitude of lobbyists to agitate for or against the particular change under consideration. These are not insignificant factors. Until Kenneth Clarke entered the Treasury they were thought important enough to

enforce absolute silence from the Chancellor for months before the Budget. Mr Brown has doubtless heard the calls for caution.

These difficulties are real but they are not decisive. In practice, both avoidance and lobbying have already existed for decades. In an atmosphere of uncertainty supplemented by leak and rumour, accountants and tax lawyers probably wield more power — and command even higher fees — than would be the case if some light entered the exercise. As for lobbyists, the whole point of consultation is that Government should take account of good arguments and reject bad ones.

On public spending, Mr Brown would be wise to be reticent tomorrow. The mere indication that there might be money available will send anxious backbenchers and aspiring beneficiaries into overdrive. On taxation, however, Mr Brown can be more reflective. He has already intimated what he might do with the lowest levels of income tax. He should have little fear about exploring corporation tax reform and capital gains tax reconstruction with similar vigour. His commendable interest in an earned income tax credit for the working poor should be developed.

One of Mr Brown's virtues is that he wears waffle badly. He should, therefore, do his utmost to avoid it. This is not an easy balance to strike, but he can afford to err on the side of transparency. In a time of boom it would be easy for the Chancellor to engage in self-congratulation. But if Mr Brown really wants to leave his mark on British politics, then he should be interested in the conduct of economic policy as well as its short-term calculations. The Treasury has been described as the "black hole" of the Whitehall network — nobody outside understands what happens within. Now is the time for some creative astronomy.

MUGGED BY MUGABE

Zimbabwe cannot afford to lose its white farmers

In the 17 years since majority rule was established, Zimbabwe's remaining white farmers have become accustomed to threats from Robert Mugabe. It has long been his public promise to seize their land and hand it over to impoverished black citizens. The damage this would do to Zimbabwe's prosperity has always restrained him in practice. It appears, though, with the publication of an initial list of 1,700 properties, that he might carry out his commitment. The 4,000 farmers left expect to lose almost everything. This nominal crusade against colonialists will, if executed, confirm Zimbabwe's drift towards the disasters of African dictatorship.

Mr Mugabe's slogan seems to be confiscation without compensation. He has said that "not one cent" would be paid to those affected. He has not been entirely consistent on the matter. At times he has argued that Britain should be sent the bill or that there would be a package based on local currency and state bonds — neither of which is attractive. The Lancaster House agreement of 1979 guaranteed that land could only be transferred on a "willing buyer, willing seller" basis. That provision expired seven years ago. It is very unlikely that Mr Mugabe will adhere to it now.

The timing of this announcement reflects Zimbabwe's dire economic condition. The country has recently suffered an intense set of industrial strikes themselves the result of rampaging inflation. Average real wages have fallen by 40 per cent between 1990 and 1996. Those conflicts were only quelled by excessive wage settlements that will eventually put further pressure on prices. Unemployment officially stands at 33 per cent, four times the rate it was when Mr

Mugabe was first elected. Living standards have made minimal progress during the independence era. The Government has decided that white farmers will serve as the scapegoats.

In truth, it is the Government's own policies that have created this crisis. For ten years, Mr Mugabe ran a statist economy. In 1991 he reluctantly surrendered in reality and sought outside assistance. His failure to implement the promised programme of liberalisation and privatisation led the IMF and the World Bank to suspend that help two years ago. Since then, further half-hearted reform plans have been drawn up while protectionist measures have been deployed in practice. Mr Mugabe's Marxist instincts make it unlikely that foreign investors will take Zimbabwe seriously. With his de facto one-party state the President will doubtless ignore the criticism.

This has all been made worse by widespread government corruption and rumours of corruption. Were there a viable alternative available, Mr Mugabe would have difficulty remaining in office.

Increasingly unpopular at home and isolated abroad, Mr Mugabe may think he has little to lose by throwing out his white farmers. Zimbabwe, however, would face the effects soon enough. The output of these estates constitutes 40 per cent of national export. They employ more people than could be resettled in the same area. The country would court the status of a Fourth World economy. Black and white alike will suffer no matter how much land is redistributed. Britain is, at the moment, Zimbabwe's most consistent aid donor. If Mr Mugabe fulfills his reckless scheme, then he should not see another cent of that money.

NEW DAY OF THE BOOK

Congratulations and great expectations for the British Library

Monday, November 24, 1997, will be a red-letter day in intellectual history. Future generations will mark it as significant as 596, when St Augustine opened the first library at Canterbury; as 1476, when Caxton set up his press near Westminster Abbey; and as 1753, when the British Museum was established. For today the humanities reading room is opened in the new British Library. The first readers will take their seats at their leather-topped desks with plugs for computers, sockets for modems and a light to signal that their books have arrived.

This modern cathedral of the book has been famously difficult to build. The most expensive building ever built in Britain opens eight years late and has cost almost five times its original budget of £16 million. In his "monstrous carbuncle" phase, the Prince of Wales said that it reminded him of an academy for secret policemen, and the House of Commons National Heritage Committee compared it to "a Babylonian ziggurat seen through a funfair distorting mirror". Then there were the monstrous misadventures with old and new technology. Two hundred miles of moving bookshelves were found to judder and spill books; 5,000 sprinkler heads were replaced because they were rusty; and 2,000 miles of electrical wiring had to be ripped out and replaced.

But the main fault found with the new library was that it was not the old. Reading Room of the British Museum. Two centuries had turned that into a world shrine for readers and writers. And those who passed

their lives there, augmenting its freight with their own books, are both legend and history. Such diverse talents as Marx and Freud, Dickens and Nehru, and Wilde and Shaw changed our world under that dome.

The new library cannot compete with it for legends or romance — yet. But it is a modern workshop of the book, where readers and writers can find the ideas with legs for the next millennium. The books will be kept under a single roof instead of being scattered around 17 depositories. They will be stored at the optimum temperature and humidity for conservation rather than for decay. They will be delivered mechanically and quickly instead of after a day of weary man-hours.

The historic collections and manuscripts of the ages are still where they should be at the core of the library. But the desks are hooked into the information technology of the future. The first readers today will find themselves in a 21st-century laboratory of the book, efficient as well as beautiful. More than other artefacts, books must change with the new world or die.

The British can be cold towards new buildings. When took as long to build St Paul's as the British Library has taken. And he was put on half-pay for ten years and then sacked. When the new Houses of Parliament were built, Disraeli declared that the architect should be hanged in public. After its stormy birth, the new British Library opens its doors today. In its field of the book, it is as important a public building as St Paul's and the Houses of Parliament.

الجامعة

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

1 Pennington Street, London E1 8KN Telephone 0171-782 5000

Friedman taken to task on euro

From Sir Samuel Goldman

Sir, Dr Milton Friedman ("Why Europe can't afford the euro", November 19) is wrong. His argument is flawed because he fails to recognise that most of the adjustments in exchange rates over the last fifty years have been the result of errors and extravagances in fiscal and monetary policies, often politically or electorally inspired. These have produced divergencies and strains in the economies concerned which have enforced devaluations (sometimes revaluations) as well as sharp and often disconcerting reversals of economic policy.

What the Maastricht and Amsterdam treaties (which may well come to be considered as among the most important in modern European history) aim to achieve is a degree of convergence in the economies of the European Union countries that will remove once and for all the principal causes of, and the need for, exchange-rate adjustments typical of the era of the great inflation.

Mechanisms will still be needed to deal with misfortunes of one kind or another to which member countries sharing a common currency will be subject. But a Union with a gross domestic product considerably greater than that of the United States should not find such a task beyond its will or its capacity.

Yours faithfully,
S. GOLDMAN,
3 Little Tangleay,
Worthing, Guildford, Surrey.
November 19.

From Mr Paul Thomas

Sir, Having spent all this afternoon bogged down in the complexities of currency blocs, "snakes", DM zones, adjustment mechanisms, convergence criteria and EMU, I was truly overwhelmed when one of my Oxbridge pupils casually observed that the whole question of monetary union had been expounded with great clarity by Professor Friedman in *The Times* this morning.

She promptly outlined and dissected the good professor's arguments, attacked my thesis and offered me 35 pence to buy a copy. Should I be grateful to her and to you?

Yours sincerely,
PAUL THOMAS,
St Paul's Girls' School
(Economics department),
Brook Green, W6.
November 19.

From Mr Gareth Knowles

Sir, Obviously EMU is partly politically driven. However, there are also very powerful economic counter-arguments — trade advantages, low interest rates and currency stability among them. These arguments, too, have been abused politically in the past; but that is no excuse for Professor Friedman dismissing them.

Yours etc,
GARETH KNOWLES,
2 Sol-air,
East Bracklesham Drive,
Bracklesham Bay, West Sussex.

Patten and Hague

From Mr Christopher Patten

Sir, Doubtless for reasons of space, your front-page report (headlined [later editions] "Heseltine and Patten gang up on Hague") on November 22 quoted only the final two sentences of what I wrote in *The Economist* Year Book about Europe, which was itself only one paragraph in a short essay entitled "France starts the ascent".

The paragraph reads as follows:

"Having noted that "The road back to Westminster should start for Tories in the town halls of Britain", I went on: "It won't start in Brussels, either by trying to love it more or hate it better. For the time being, given the present difference between Britain's perception of itself and its place in the world, and the nature of the current Franco-German project, we are doomed to rather grumpy relations with our current European colleagues. That is bound to change either if Franco-German plans succeed, or if they do not. We should not make this irrevocable association the centre-piece of modern Toryism. Mr Hague should avoid the nasty right wing nationalism found elsewhere in Europe. Being tainted with it would ensure only that Mr Blair's tenure of his present position is much longer than Mr Hague would like."

Yours faithfully,
CHRIS PATTEN,
Montreal, St Martin-Lagutte,
81170 Cordes, France.
November 22.

Just a slip

From Mr Dick Campain

Sir, "Atmospheric conditions affecting adhesion of rolling stock..." Come on Concorde South Central; plain speak please. El Nino would have been more plausible!

Yours faithfully,
DICK CAMPAIN,
38 Redstone Park, Redhill, Surrey.
Campain@eirc.co.uk

Sport letters, page 36

Letters for publication may be faxed to 0171-782 5046. e-mail to: letters@the-times.co.uk

Measures to cut NHS waiting lists

From Sir Bryan Thwaites

Sir, There is only one "radical change" (for which you call in your leading article today, "Why are we waiting?") which, by government action, will solve the waiting list problem: the explicit acceptance that a comprehensive National Health Service free at the point of delivery is no longer practical, and hence that rationing is

performed an extra 400 minor operations in-house this year, at an approximate saving to the NHS of £145,000.

Mr Dobson wants to abolish this in the name of efficiency. Would his "action team" like to see us?

Yours faithfully,

IAN SYKES,
11 Fonthavon Close, Rowley Regis,
Warley, West Midlands.

From Dr C. F. Rose

Sir, It was with a wry smile that I noticed Mr Frank Dobson's comment on the nine people who had been waiting on more than 18 months that it was "unacceptable" that anyone had to wait that long for admission (report, November 19).

Over forty years ago a committee of inquiry into the cost of the National Health Service (Cmd 9663, 1956) considered this dilemma, and since then there has grown up a massive literature on the problem. An annual widening of the gap between resources and demand has long been inevitable; but no government has yet had the courage overtly to accept that inevitability. Let Mr Dobson, therefore, now show his mettle.

Yours faithfully,

BRYAN THWAITES,
Mimbrough,
Winchester, Hampshire.
November 19.

From Dr Ian Sykes

Sir, As lead partner in a local fundholding practice, I am pleased to report that none of our patients currently has to wait more than nine months for a routine operation. This has been achieved by using the freedom allowed under the fundholding initiative to be innovative, and by the hard work of a highly motivated practice.

Despite being slightly underfunded on a per capita basis compared with our local health authority, we have

Tobacco sponsorship

From the President of the Fédération Internationale de l'Automobile

Sir, No one in Formula One has ever said 50,000 jobs would be lost if tobacco sponsorship were banned in the EU (letters, November 21; see also letters, November 7, 11, 14). A ban would damage the British motor sport industry, but the effect on jobs is difficult to predict.

The case for a Formula One exemption is concerned solely with the amount of tobacco sponsorship on television. If we accept that sporting events held outside the EU can be televised inside the EU and that Formula One can easily move six of the present nine EU events out if can, and in 1999 if necessary, it follows that a ban would not reduce television publicity for tobacco in the EU. This is because with three non-tobacco events already (currently the British, French and German Grand Prix), the amount of television coverage of events with tobacco sponsorship would remain constant.

The Fédération Internationale de l'Automobile (FIA) has offered to introduce its own binding rules reducing Formula One tobacco sponsorship

worldwide. Unlike an EU ban, this would actually reduce the amount of tobacco sponsorship shown on television. In return, we seek only the right for each EU government to allow a tobacco-sponsored sporting event of national importance on its territory. This is what happens in Australia, which has the world's most stringent anti-tobacco legislation.

We have never sought exemption for Formula One alone. To do so would be unfair to other branches of motor sport (eg. rallies), lose us the support of sport in general and attract little backing in the seven EU countries with no racing circuit suitable for Formula One.

The case for giving each EU government the power to exempt a sporting event of national or international significance is anyway strong. Supported by a real reduction in Formula One tobacco sponsorship worldwide by the FIA, it is overwhelming.

Yours faithfully,
MAX MOSLEY,
President,
Fédération Internationale de l'Automobile,
8 Place de la Concorde,
75008 Paris.
21 November.

Student loans

From the Secretary of State for Education and Employment

Sir, Magnus Linklater ("Don't ever go back on Dearing", November 20) states that "students from middle-income families, at the bottom end of the non-exempt range, will now have to contemplate finding tuition fees 'up-front' [and] will be ineligible for loans". This is simply untrue.

All students will be eligible for loans, which are tied to the retail price index and thus have no real rate of interest. The level of the loan will depend on family circumstances, as

now. Under the current scheme, middle and higher-income families are expected to make a contribution to maintenance. Their overall contribution will be no greater than at present.

Graduates will start to repay the loans only when they start earning over £10,000 a year — and then on an income-contingent basis. Those earning £17,000 a year would have to pay back £12 a week, which is less than the £18-£30 a week they would have to pay under the present loans scheme. This is a much fairer system.

Yours sincerely,
DAVID BLUNKETT,
House of Commons.

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Yours faithfully,

JEREMY GREENWOOD,
Director,
British Trust for Ornithology,
The Nunnery, Thetford, Norfolk.
November 21.

Degree of choice

From Mrs Margaret Ball

Sir, How actors can complain about being asked to take any job in "their field", how ever detrimental to their career's future, is the shame of being a luvvie on the "dole", November 19, beggars belief. If a graduate with a Masters degree refuses any job "without good reason" then their dole/job-seekers allowance is likely to be stopped. These days people have to take anything, however beneath them it seems. Why shou'd actors be a special case?



COURT CIRCULAR

BUCKINGHAM PALACE

November 22 The Duke of York today visited evacuees in the safe areas on Montserrat, the Leeward Islands.

BUCKINGHAM PALACE

November 22 The Princess Royal, Patron, Scottish Rugby Union, accompanied by Captain Timothy Laurence RN this afternoon attended the International Match between Scotland and Australia at Murrayfield Stadium, Edinburgh.

BUCKINGHAM PALACE

November 23 The Baroness Farrington of Ribbleton (Baroness in Waiting) was present at Heathrow Airport, London, this afternoon upon the Departure of The King and Queen of Norway and bade farewell to Their Majesties on behalf of The Queen.

BUICKINGHAM PALACE

November 23 The Duke of York this morning visited Monseirian evacuees in Antigua, the Leeward Islands.

THATCHED HOUSE LODGE RICHMOND PARK

November 23 Prince Alexandra this afternoon attended a Service in Winchester Cathedral to commemorate the Golden Wedding of The Queen and The Duke of Edinburgh and was received by Her Majesty's Lord-Lieutenant of Hampshire (Mrs Mary Fagan).

Birthdays today

Viscount Alnwick, 65; Mr P.M. Birse, chairman, Birse Group, 55; Mr David Blasby, Chief Constable, West Mercia, 54; The Marquess of Blandford, 42; Mr Ian Botham, cricketer, 42; Mr Lynn Chadwick, sculptor, 83; Mr Billy Connolly, comedian, 53; Miss Beryl Cooper, QC, 70; Mr Patrick Dickinson, Richmond Herald of Arms, 47; Judge Elizabeth Fisher, 53; Mr P.J. Head, head of property services, Further Education Funding Council for England, 46; Mr David Kossoff, actor and author, 78; General Sir Richard Lawson, 70; Mr E.A.M. Macalpine, former Headmaster, Mill Hill School, 57; Sir Claus Moser, FBA, former Warden, Wadham College, Oxford, 75; Mr Charles Osborne, author, 76; Miss Vivien Saunders, golfer, 51; Mr Edward Stourton, broadcaster, 40; Mr Mark Taylor, director, Museums Association, 39; the Right Rev F.S. Temple, former Bishop of Malmesbury, 81; Mr Paul Thorburn, rugby player, 35.

Sir John Kendrew, FRS

The President of St John's College, Oxford introduced the speakers at a commemoration for the life of Sir John Kendrew, FRS, biochemist and Nobel laureate, held today in the Great Hall. Dr Mark Peart, OM, CBE, FRS, paid tribute and Mr Ross McKibbin gave an address. The college choir, conducted by Mr Gavin Milner and accompanied by Mr Christopher Willey, of St Anne's College, organ, sang "Toward the Unknown Region" by Ralph Vaughan Williams and "Hymnus En Me" by Samuel Barber. Mr Kevin Gould, soloist, played Suite in C major by JS Bach.

Nature notes

Some young carrion crows are still hopping after their parents, hoping to be fed, but they usually get chased away. Mute swan cygnets, in their soft brown plumage, stay in

the company of their parents, but they feed for themselves with all the family upending in the water together. This year's brood of great crested grebes are still very

distinguishable with their silver-grey plumage and black head-stripes. The adults will lose

their forked head-crests and chestnut ruffs for the winter months. Large numbers of

wigeon are flying in from Scandinavia and settling on quiet lakes. The drakes have a

chestnut head with a buttery-looking patch above the beak, and their sharp whistles can be heard a long way off. A few colourful leaves linger on most trees. Weeping willow trees are cascades of green and yellow. Bramble bushes are changing colour, with large, bright yellow leaves dotted among the dark green foliage

that will survive the winter. Some tall mallow plants continue to put out purple flowers. The gleaming red, oval-shaped berries of black bryony hang in long strings over the hedges; they burn the lips if tasted, and are poisonous if they are swallowed. DJM


The wigeon

are distinctive with their silver-grey plumage and black head-stripes. The adults will lose their forked head-crests and chestnut ruffs for the winter months. Large numbers of

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Pupils in the Woodard Orchestra rehearsing in Wolverhampton yesterday for The Woodard Schools' 150th anniversary concert at the Albert Hall in London tomorrow. Almost 1,400 pupils from 37 of the Anglican schools across the country will be performing in the orchestra and concert band or singing in the two choirs

Royal engagements

The Duke of Edinburgh, as Senior Fellow, will attend the Royal Academy of Engineering's New Fellows' dinner at Drapers' Hall, at 7.30.

Princess Margaret will visit the Phoenix Theatre, Blyth, Northumberland, at 10.30, and the National Children's Home, Ashton-under-lyne, at 11.30.

The Duke of Edinburgh, as President of the Royal Society of Medicine, will open a new building for the Crawley boys' club, Crawley New Town, at 6.15.

Clubs for Young People, will open a new building for the Crawley boys' club, Crawley New Town, at 6.15.

The Duchess of Gloucester, patron, BLISS (Baby Life Support System), will attend a reception to mark BLISS' 15th anniversary, at Clarendon, at 7.00.

University news

UNIVERSITY COLLEGE LONDON
Miss Mu-Jin Tan has been elected to the Bahran Dehqani-Tai Scholarship.

MURKIN DALEYTA MABON has been awarded the Bahran Dehqani-Tai Travel Scholarship 1997.

Lincoln's Inn

The following have been elected Ordinary Benchers of Lincoln's Inn:
Sir Jonathan A. G. McMillan, QC, and Mr Geoffrey Patterson, QC.

ORDINARY BENCHERS have been appointed to the Inn:

Mr D. J. T. Tandy, QC, and Mr S. J. H. Tandy, QC.

ASSISTANT BENCHERS have been appointed to the Inn:

Mr C. J. D. Tandy, QC, and Mr S. J. H. Tandy, QC.

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ASSISTANT

OBITUARIES

MICHAEL HUTCHENCE

Michael Hutchence, rock star, was found dead in his hotel room in Sydney on November 22, aged 37. He was born on January 22, 1960.

Michael Hutchence was the closest Australia has come to having an equivalent of rock rebels such as Mick Jagger and Jim Morrison. A hard-living hell-raiser who often boasted of his copious intake of drugs, he did his swaggering best to live up to the danger implicit in the name of his band, INXS ("In excess"). He marked his birthday this year by claiming that he was "never going to live my life in a way that's deemed appropriate", but actually lived, and apparently died, in the antic manner now virtually *de rigueur* for rock's hard men.

In recent years he became a more regular fixture in the gossip columns than in the music press, which had come to regard the uncomplicated funk-rock played by INXS as unfashionable. Yet for several years Hutchence led one of the best-selling stadium rock bands in the world, selling more than 20 million albums. He relished the part, considering himself "bloody good at being a rock star", and was once described as "surfing on the irony of it all".

Hutchence was born in Sydney to a suburban middle-class family, but led a peripatetic childhood, living in Hong Kong, where he picked up his English accent, and Los Angeles. He always believed that his upbringing influenced the restlessness and bohemianism that came to characterise his adult life.

Back in Sydney in 1977, he became lead singer with a band known as the Parries Brothers, which became INXS the following year when it moved to Perth. The band's original six-strong line-up was to remain unchanged throughout. They developed a driving sound that combined rock, dance and soul, and spent the next four years travelling across Australia, playing up to 300 dates a year, mostly in small and seedy venues. Some of these had separate bars for men and women, with gamblers running between so that the tamer and more serious could be housed away.

The band's first album appeared in 1980, and there were several minor Australian hits before they were signed to a major label in 1982. The deal took them to America and Britain, where they traded successfully on the sultry good looks and bad boy charisma of Hutchence, who was also rapidly developing as a songwriter.

Touring incessantly, they also became one of the first bands to benefit from the emergence of MTV, with a series of striking videos. In 1986 Hutchence made his film debut in *Dogs in Space*, playing a heroin-addicted punk. Shortly after-



wards, the single *What You Want* reached the top five in America and, aided by a satellite appearance in Bob Geldof's Live Aid and sell-out shows supporting Queen, *Listen Like Thieves* became the band's first million-selling album. Some of the proceeds were invested in the film *Crocodile Dundee*, initially as a tax loss.

Kick, INXS's best album, occupied the British charts for more than two years at the end of the 1980s, and was followed by the successful X and the hit singles *Need You Tonight*, a number one in America, and *Suicide Blonde*. By 1990 Hutchence was at his peak, an all-round celebrity as well as a senior member of the rock

aristocracy, starring as Shelley in Roger Corman's *Frankenstein Unbound* and winning a Brit award as best international artist.

INXS were to top the British album charts once more, in 1993 with *Welcome to Wherever You Are*, but by then the dual influences of Britpop and house were about to change musical fashions. Sales began to decline outside Australia, and last year Liam Gallagher of Oasis denounced Hutchence as a "has-been". The last album, *Elegantly Wasted*, received a critical mauling for repeating the same old rock clichés, although Hutchence enjoyed some success singing on the soundtracks of the hit films *Batman Forever* and *Face/Off*. He was preparing for a sell-out tour, called "Lose Your Head", to celebrate INXS's 20th anniversary and Michael Douglas had reportedly invited him to Hollywood to discuss future film roles.

Despite his commercial decline, Hutchence had been more in the media glare than ever in recent years because of his turbulent lifestyle, and as consort to a string of famous women. There were affairs with Kylie Minogue and the model Helena Christensen before he hit the tabloid headlines in 1995 over his liaison with Paula Yates, who had then been married to Bob Geldof for nine years. The two had first met much earlier, when Yates interviewed him on television and described him as "the sexiest man alive". Caught in an increasingly tangled web of soap-opera complexity, Geldof and Yates at one point attempted a reconciliation while Hutchence went back to Christensen and posed for romantic shots in *Hello!* magazine. Shortly afterwards Hutchence punched a paparazzo who had tracked him and Yates to a hotel. He was duly fined.

Last year Yates gave birth to Hutchence's daughter, named Heavenly Hiraani Tiger Lily. Then, after changing their partners, Geldof, Yates and Hutchence agreed to change houses. In a bizarre house-swap, the new couple moved into Geldof's Chelsea home while Yates's husband moved into Hutchence's one-bedroom house. Shortly afterwards, the police raided the couple's home for drugs.

Hutchence recently announced that he and Yates would marry in Tahiti in January, and he was reported to be house-hunting for them in Sydney. In an interview in October he described himself as "the luckiest man alive", and all who knew him were surprised by his death. After Kurt Cobain's suicide, Hutchence had remarked: "Pop can't be young, that's for sure."

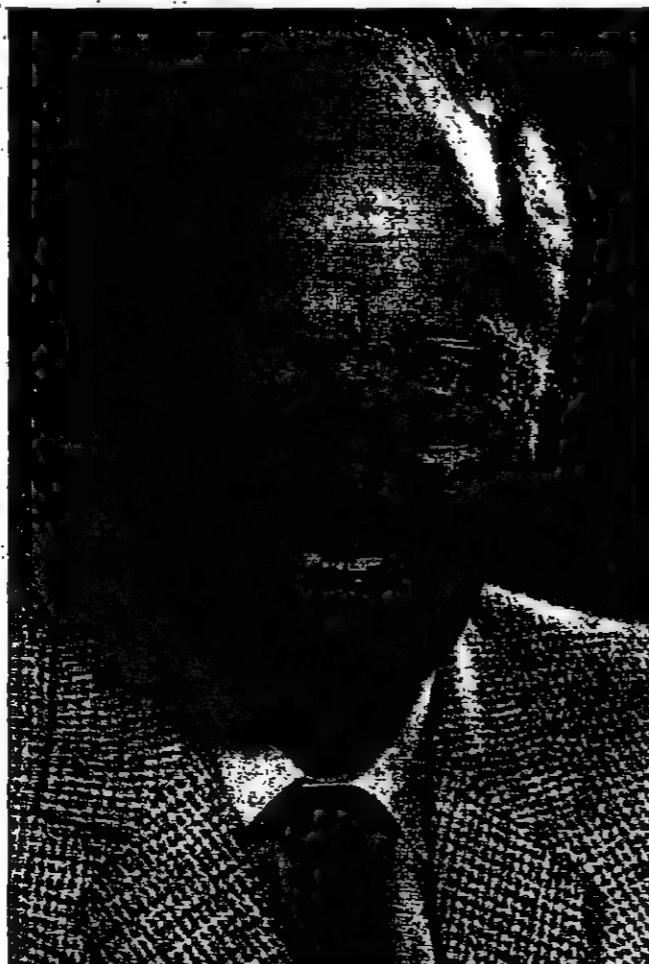
He is survived by Paula Yates and their daughter.

PROFESSOR JOHN LAWSON

Professor John Lawson, obstetrician, died on October 25 aged 75. He was born on June 20, 1922.

JOHN LAWSON was a giant not only in stature — he was off 7ft — but also, for 40 years, in the field of medicine in the developing world. In 1953 he went to Nigeria as Professor of Obstetrics and Gynaecology at the new medical school at University College, Ibadan, which was then affiliated to the University of London. Setting up in the government hospital at Adeoyo, he moved his department to the new University College Hospital, where it became internationally recognised for its work on the problems of women and childbirth in a region where associated mortality and morbidity were on a scale scarcely comprehended in the developed world.

The department made major contributions to the understanding and treatment of anaemia due to malnutrition, malaria and blood disorders (such as sickle cell disease), which at the time actually accounted for more deaths than anything else. Lawson's special contributions were to mechanical obstruction in unsupervised childbirth, and in its devastating sequel of genital trauma resulting in urinary and faecal fistula. The sufferers who survived (mostly adolescents) were completely incontinent and rejected by spouses and families. Following in the steps of Chassier Moir and Mahfouz, Lawson and his colleague Paul Hendrickson established a fistula unit of international renown, attracting patients from far afield and aspiring surgeons to be trained.



Recognising that this was a problem throughout the developing world, Lawson wrote and lectured widely, producing an educational film, which won a BMA silver award in 1963. With his friend Dave Stewart of the University of the West Indies, he

produced an important work, *Obstetrics and Gynaecology in the Tropics*. The Ibadan Unit has been an inspiration for a number of special units and hospitals devoted to fistula surgery across the continent and elsewhere.

John Lawson was born in 1922 in Ashby de la Zouch, where his father was a mining engineer. As a prefect at Rugby, his awakening social conscience dictated that he should not participate in the traditional activity of punishing younger boys. His subsequent education was at Gonville and Caius College, Cambridge, and the London Hospital, where the practice was largely with the underprivileged of the East End.

It was, however, during National Service, on secondment to the West African Medical Corps in Sierra Leone, that Lawson's interest was aroused in the problems of the deprived and underprivileged, which were compounded in the case of women by their status in society. After a traditional specialist training which included Queen Charlotte's and the Hospital for Women, the young man with pronounced left-wing views was selected for the chair at Ibadan, an appointment which caused some concern in government circles, owing to the anxieties about communist influence over the emergent African nations.

Lawson's contribution to Ibadan was not confined to his department. He played a significant role in holding the university together during the difficult years of civil unrest, culminating in the civil war, and for a spell he served as acting vice-chancellor. Characteristically he turned down the offer of an honourary degree.

In 1969 he decided to stand down in order to allow others to head the department on a rotating basis. He was appointed to a full-time NHS post at Newcastle General Hospital and the Princess Mary Hospital — the first joint appointment between

these two. He set himself the task of organising the training of junior doctors on a regional basis, and of improving the lot of those who came from abroad. He was director of postgraduate studies at the Royal College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists from 1981 to 1987, when he was elected vice-president and overseas officer.

During these years Lawson served for a time on the World Health Organisation's standing expert advisory committee on maternal and child health, and he continued to undertake overseas assignments for WHO, the British Council and the Carnegie Corporation of New York. He played a crucial part in persuading the Royal College to support an ambitious Anglo-American training programme to tackle the appalling maternal death-rate in Ghana.

Lawson inspired great loyalty, respect and friendship among his trainees, but relations with his contemporaries were not always as easy, for tact was not his strong point. He accepted with dignity that his term as vice-president was not to run a full three years, but it was clearly a wounding blow.

His was a complex character, sometimes the left-wing maverick, at other times very Establishment. His recreations of shooting and fishing were enjoyed largely in non-medical company. Sadly these were curtailed in his later years by the illness which severely restricted his mobility. He is survived by his wife, without whose devoted support John Lawson would never have achieved what he did for the underprivileged women of the world. He also leaves two sons.

London, (Norwich) to retire as Rural Dean, January 1, 1998.

The Rev Gerald Downing, Vicar, Great Lever St Simon and St Jude (Manchester), retired September 22.

Canon Robin Fletcher, Vicar, Clifford (York) to retire December 31.

The Rev Avril Gaunt, formerly Assistant Curate, Farthing St Thomas-on-the-Bourne (Guildford) resigned August 31.

Canon Stanley Holbrook-Jones, Prebendary, Poole St James w St Paul (Salisbury) retired October 31.

The Rev Clifford Rosewell, Vicar, West Croydon Christ Church, and Examining Chaplain to the Bishop of Southwark, to resign November 22.

Canon Geoff Stock, Vicar, Billingham (Sheffield) to retire November 30.

Canon John Browning, Chaplain, Community Health Sheffield NHS Trust, (Sheffield) retired October 31.

Canon Christopher Chapman, Priest-in-Charge, Loddon, Sisland w Hales and Heckington (LEP), and Cheggrave, Hardley and Langley, and Rural Dean of

Church news

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Other appointments

Captain David Booker, CA, Diocesan Evangelist (Chesterfield); to be Children's Worker, Wilford

Christ Church (Sheffield).

MONTY FRESCO



Fresco's lucky shot of Princess Anne was voted Best Royal Picture of 1976

Monty Fresco, MBE, press photographer, died on November 22 aged 78. He was born on October 17, 1919.

IN a career of more than 60 years on Fleet Street, Monty Fresco won more awards than any other press photographer, including Best Photographer in the World. During his travels he often told astonished officials that the reason he had just walked past a "no admittance" sign was that he had left school at 14 and couldn't read. Sir David English, the Editor in Chief of the *Daily Mail*, said that Fresco's "amusing personality meant that he could charm or persuade his subjects into doing exactly what he wanted".

Despite his commercial decline, Hutchence had been more in the media glare than ever in recent years because of his turbulent lifestyle, and as consort to a string of famous women. There were affairs with Kylie Minogue and the model Helena Christensen before he hit the tabloid headlines in 1995 over his liaison with Paula Yates, who had then been married to Bob Geldof for nine years. The two had first met much earlier, when Yates interviewed him on television and described him as "the sexiest man alive". Caught in an increasingly tangled web of soap-opera complexity, Geldof and Yates at one point attempted a reconciliation while Hutchence went back to Christensen and posed for romantic shots in *Hello!* magazine. Shortly afterwards Hutchence punched a paparazzo who had tracked him and Yates to a hotel. He was duly fined.

Last year Yates gave birth to Hutchence's daughter, named Heavenly Hiraani Tiger Lily. Then, after changing their partners, Geldof, Yates and Hutchence agreed to change houses. In a bizarre house-swap, the new couple moved into Geldof's Chelsea home while Yates's husband moved into Hutchence's one-bedroom house. Shortly afterwards, the police raided the couple's home for drugs.

Hutchence recently announced that he and Yates would marry in Tahiti in January, and he was reported to be house-hunting for them in Sydney. In an interview in October he described himself as "the luckiest man alive", and all who knew him were surprised by his death. After Kurt Cobain's suicide, Hutchence had remarked: "Pop can't be young, that's for sure."

He is survived by Paula Yates and their daughter.

LUTHER SIMJIAN



Luther Simjian, inventor, died on October 23 aged 92. He was born on January 28, 1905.

IN AN inventing career spanning seven decades, Luther Simjian took out 200 patents, including the self-focusing camera, the TelePromTer and early versions of the automatic teller machine. This was followed in 1954 by a colour X-ray machine. He also invented a self-positioning portrait camera, allowing the subject to look into a mirror and see exactly the picture that was about to be taken.

A variant of this was the "boudoir chair", with an adjustable mirror on the back (US patent 4,577,520), which enabled a woman to see all around her coiffure. Sitting on it, one could see a reflection of oneself which gave Simjian the name for his company, Reflectone, which he began in his garage.

At the start of the Second World War, Simjian realised that America would be drawn in, and that aerial warfare would be critical. Accordingly, he invented the "optical range estimation trainer", the first flight simulator of its kind. The simulator used a miniature plane, synchronised moving mirrors and controlled lighting to train aviators to identify enemy aircraft and determine their distance and speed. Reflectone sold more than 2,000 simulators, and Simjian also invented a flight speed indicator for aeroplanes.

Reflectone merged with the Universal Match Company in 1961, before regaining its independence only to be sold in 1996 to British Aerospace.

Simjian was always more interested in the science than in the business, but he formed two other companies, General Research and Command Automation, to help to capitalise on his other inventions, which included a remote-controlled postage meter, a meat tenderiser and an ultrasound device for use in hospitals. As a keen golfer, he also patented an indoor golf practice range during the 1960s, using an analog computer to project the "flight" of the ball.

"One thing I discovered about myself in the early days of my life is that I can't stick with just one idea for too long," Simjian wrote in his privately published *Portions of Autobiography*.

In March this year, Simjian received his last patent, for a process to improve the resonance of wood used for musical instruments. He is survived by his wife, Gladys, and a daughter.

that it died of the disease by only a few days before the tragedy.

The last time I ever saw the Prince was at the top of St James's street. He saw me across the street, rushed across — and incidentally was very nearly run over by a hansom cab — came up to me quite breathless, and said, "I saw you and had to come to tell you the good news! I have just come from the War Office, and I have got my orders, and I sail for South Africa at once." I wished him all good luck and never dreamt I should never see him again. He was in the greatest spirits and overjoyed at the thought of going out. Though scarcely the figure of a horseman, he was a fine and bold rider, and a very clever and plucky fellow, both courageous with us all and greatly liked.

Though he lived in a house on the Common, he had rooms, too, in the Academy, and after dinner he often invited me to come to them, saying, "I will give you coffee and a cigar, if you will come, and we will have a talk."

Certainly he loved asking questions, and used to ponder over things, but was very reticent in expressing his opinions; but he

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AY NOVEMBER 24 1997

TV LISTINGS

The History Hour
Review: Cilla's biography

Brown and green

years have been described as the most difficult to live outside within the last century.

Mugged by Mugabe

the like will affect much land is unknown.

other. If we do not have a new scheme, nothing will happen within the next few years.

New day of the book

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COLUMNS

PETER RIDDELL

Government is now

conservative, in its

WILLIAM REES-MOGG

able to describe Asia as a dominant European power.

RICHARD ROGERS

United's five in a row

CONTINUED

Richard Wallace, rock in

the front page photo

John Lowe

THE PAPERS

that we are

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United States

Europe's

international importance

Barry will

political decisions

to change. This



RICH PICKINGS

Pilsudski rounds off career with lucrative victory in Japan Cup PAGE 40

TIMES SPORT

MONDAY NOVEMBER 24 1997

UNDER THE SKIN OF SPORT

LIGHT FANTASTIC

England emerge from the All Blacks' shadow PAGE 31

GREAT SCOT

McRae leads the pack in chase for world title PAGE 29

PLUS

Reports from all the Premiership matches PAGES 32-33

REDKNAPP LEFT TO PONDER ONE THAT GOT AWAY

Hasselbaink leads the late escape



MICHAEL STEELE

THEY were giving away free Yorkie chocolate bars outside Elland Road before the match yesterday afternoon. At first, it seemed as though it might be a symbol of the strange new spirit of generosity that has afflicted Leeds United in recent games. Soon, though, it became apparent that it was just the binges before the repositioning of the fast.

They have conceded six goals in the past two games, this team that is supposed to be a byword for parsimony in defence and restraint in attack, but yesterday, to the puzzlement of their manager, George Graham, Leeds began to revert to type with a win over West Ham United that took them to the heady heights of fourth place in the FA Carling Premiership.

Gone, it seemed, was the flair and the abandon that brought them back from three goals down against Derby County in their previous Premiership game and gave them a 4-3 win. We began writing obituaries for the old Leeds after that game, but yesterday, for that depressing first hour, it reappeared in all its spartan ugliness.

Leeds had created little if any danger and had not even produced a single shot on target until 15 minutes from the end, when they went on a scoring spree that yielded three goals, a brace from Jimmy Floyd Hasselbaink and another from Alf Inge Haaland. It left West Ham staring into the evening gloom in disbelief. For the other 75 minutes, though, Leeds had been the models of defensive propriety, content to turn the game into the dourest of struggles.

Only when Frank Lampard scored a superb opening goal in the 64th minute did Leeds whip themselves into their attacking frenzy. So superior, so clinical were they when they cast caution aside that it almost seemed that they had been indulging in some sort of academic exercise until then, seeing how long they could keep the game locked in a stalemate.

Graham said afterwards: "It would be nice to have the answer to why we suddenly started going forward and playing positive football when we went 1-0 down. I would like us to have done that right from the start, but I think we were a bit apprehensive at the beginning and I was disappointed with their performance overall."

"We have played a lot of very exciting games this year and, if you are a realist and not a dreamer, you



By OLIVER HOLT
FOOTBALL CORRESPONDENT

know that with those excellent games you are going to get a percentage of average games and some poor ones, too. If you have bad games, the trick is to make sure you get something out of them and we managed that today."

"Fourth place is much more than I expected at this time of the season. There are a lot of clubs doing well that you might not necessarily think would be up there, so nothing surprises me. But we are not kidding ourselves. We have got a

Liverpool lose faith 32
Atkinson's triumph 33
Birmingham side 35
Hearts break out 35
Pleat seeking mission 36

lot of improving to do and a lot of hard work. We are going to get knock-backs when we are building this team, but, so far, I am pleased with its progress."

Deprived of one of their chief creative influences, Harry Kewell, who scored Australia's goal in the World Cup qualifying play-off against Iran in Teheran on Saturday, Leeds looked lost when they tried to press forward in the first half. They spurned one excellent chance three minutes before the interval, when Hasselbaink

headed over the bar from six yards out from Ribeiro's cross, but, that apart, they had hardly troubled the West Ham defence.

Five minutes after the break, Leeds had what appeared to be a legitimate claim for a penalty turned down when Unsorth brought down Wallace, but the referee, bored, perhaps, by the earlier ballistic falls of Hasselbaink, turned away all the anguished appeals. After that, Leeds's day seemed as though it would be summed up by a cross-field pass from Hasselbaink that sailed ten feet over Bowyer's head and into touch without a bounce.

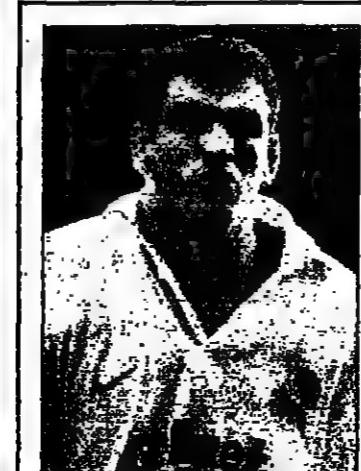
That impression increased when Lampard ran on to Hartson's fine header and swept a flashing right-foot shot from 20 yards across Martyn and into the corner of the net. He ran over to the same corner as his father had made for after-scoring in an FA Cup semi-final replay here 17 years ago and danced round the flag — just as Frank Sr had done. It was his fourth goal in two games after his hat-trick in the Coca-Cola Cup tie against Walsall in midweek. "He is the sort of player we will build this club around," Harry Redknapp, the West Ham manager, said.

The goal transformed Leeds. Hasselbaink curled a right-foot shot round the defensive wall and in off a post for the equaliser. Three minutes from the end, Haaland put the home side ahead when he rose above Pearce to nod in Ribeiro's corner. Then, on the stroke of full time, Hasselbaink rubbed salt into the wounds by stooping past Martyn.

After the match, Redknapp was asked about the atmosphere in the away dressing-room. "It's terrific," he said bitterly, "the boys are all singing and dancing and looking forward to a long journey home. I thought we had it all sewn up. They were going nowhere and then we conceded a bad goal and that was it. If you come away from home and do not let them have a shot for 70 minutes, you cannot ask for much more than that."

It was impossible not to feel sorry for Redknapp, but Graham could tell him a thing or two about the flaw in his argument.

LEEDS UNITED (4-4-2): N Martyn — G Hall, D Webber, L Redknapp — G Kelly, L Bowyer, A Hasselbaink, B Ribiero, D Robertson — JF Hartson, P Lampard, Alf Inge Haaland. WEST HAM UNITED (4-3-1-2): L Molloko — T Brecker, S Potts, J Pearce, D Unsorth — P Lampard, S Lemes, A Impar — E Barkovic (sub J Moncur, Benini) — S Abou (sub J Dowes, 86). Manager: G Ashby.



Johnson receives ban

ENGLAND'S rugby union players will re-assemble in Richmond tomorrow reflecting on the lessons of defeat by New Zealand in Manchester on Saturday and the loss, for the encounter this Saturday with South Africa at Twickenham, of Martin Johnson (David hands). The Leicester lock was suspended yesterday for one match after a punching incident with Justin Marshall, the All Blacks scrum half and captain.

The incident happened early in the Old Trafford international and Johnson's own management made the decision to ban him. After viewing video evidence, Roger Utley, the team manager, said: "We are very concerned that all our players are seen to be playing within the rules and laws of rugby football. It was considered that, in one particular incident, Martin transgressed." Johnson, 27 and capped 32 times, will be available for selection again when the return match with New Zealand is played at Twickenham on December 6.

Haaland turns in celebration after heading Leeds ahead against West Ham at Elland Road yesterday

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TENNIS: FRENCHWOMAN TAKES ADVANTAGE TO REACH FINAL AFTER COMPATRIOT TIRES IN NEW YORK

Pierce responds to thrill of the chase

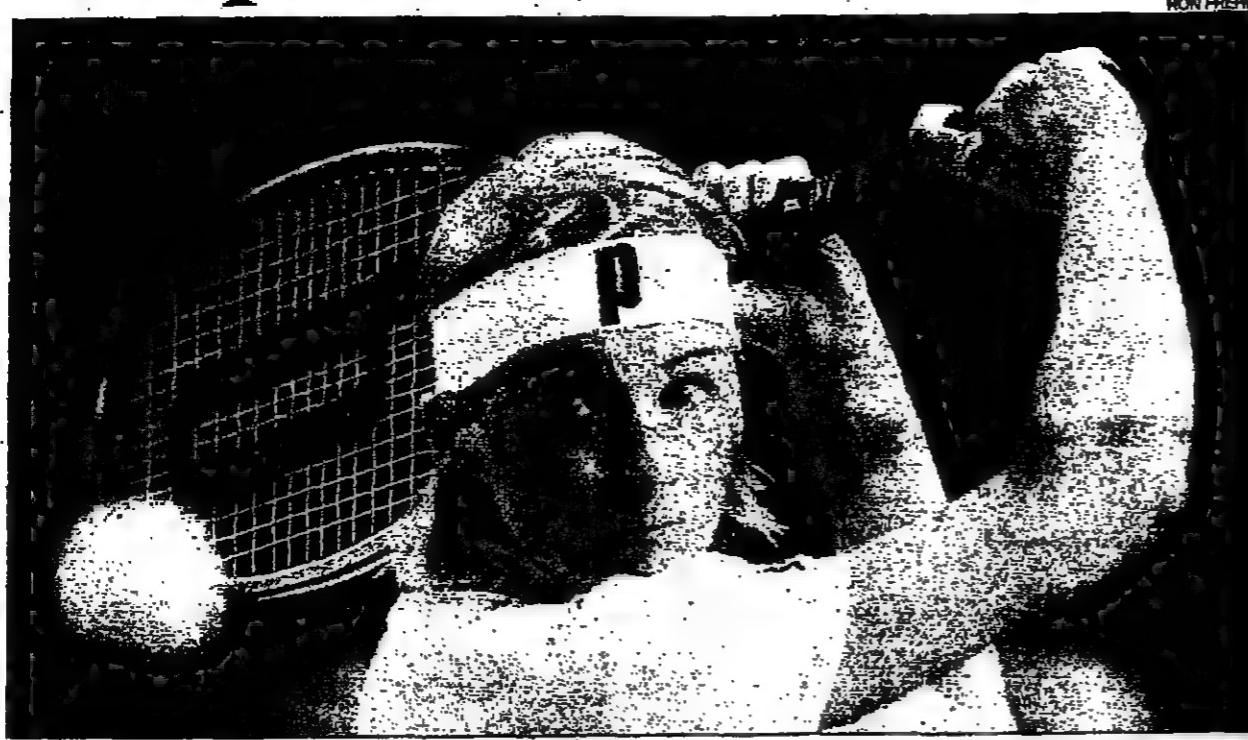
FROM ALIX KAMSAY
IN NEW YORK

MARY PIERCE has fond memories of Madison Square Garden. One of the most infuriatingly erratic players on the circuit — she won her first grand-slam title two years ago, but has done very little since — she has always done well at the end-of-year championships.

In the past, she has claimed the scalps of Martina Navratilova, Steffi Graf and Gabriela Sabatini. Now, only Jana Novotna stands in the way of her first title in the famous arena here.

Pierce reached the final of the Chase Championships with a predictably twitchy three-set win over Nathalie Tauziat, her French Fed Cup team-mate, 6-2, 5-7, 6-4. It was not a pretty encounter, with Pierce at times powerful and in control and, at others, paralysed by stage fright. Against a dogged campaigner such as Tauziat, it was never going to be a quick match.

Going through the full range of pre-point antics, Pierce was given a warning for time-wasting as she flexed the legs, bounced up and down, re-arranged the shoul-



Novotna, who stands in the way of Pierce securing victory in the Chase Championships for the first time

ders and then thought about preparing to serve. Even she admits that she can be difficult on court and, when she watches the videos of her matches, she cringes at the theatrical

rituals she goes through in between points.

The overall effect, however, has been impressive this year. She was presented with the comeback player-of-the-year

award on Friday night and now, working with Craig Karol, she feels she is back on track after two seasons plagued by injury and illness.

Against Tauziat, Pierce

thundered through the first set, making the most of her baseline power, but Tauziat had other plans in the second. One of the few serve-and-volley players on the women's

circuit, she foiled Pierce's tactics just often enough to allow the doubts to creep into Pierce's fragile mind. But when it came to the crunch, Tauziat, 30, did not have enough left at the end of a long and successful season to pull off her opponent.

Novotna came through her semi-final with a little more ease, beating Irina Spirlea 7-6, 6-2. Spirlea, who in the early days was compared to Graf, is one of the unsung heroines of women's tennis. She broke into the top ten at the end of last year, stayed there throughout this season, reaching the semi-finals of the US Open, and yet she is known only as the woman who bumped into Venus Williams at Flushing Meadows.

Not that it bothers her much. She only took up tennis by accident. Her parents insisted that she did something useful with her spare time and one day sent her to a violin lesson in the morning and a tennis lesson in the afternoon. She thought she could have more fun with a racket than a bow and decided to give tennis a whirl. Against Novotna, who thrives on indoor tennis, she was never given the opportunity to play her own tune.

SPORT IN BRIEF

Sorenstam on course to maintain cash flow

GOLF: Annika Sorenstam, of Sweden, had a third-round score of 67 to take a one-shot lead after three rounds of the LPGA Tour Championship in Las Vegas. Sorenstam began the day four shots behind Pat Hurst, the leader after two rounds, and got off to a slow start with eight straight pars. However, she had five birdies in the next six holes to move to the top of the leaderboard.

Sorenstam, the leader in the US LPGA money-list, was one shot in front of Kelly Robbins and Nancy Lopez, both of the United States. Robbins had a round of 69 and Lopez a 71. "I don't walk down the fairway thinking 'money-list', but I know what it means," Sorenstam said. "It's on my mind." Eight players were within three shots of the lead, including Karrie Webb, of Australia, the defending champion.

Hammond deflated

CYCLE-CROSS: A puncture ruined Roger Hammond's chances of marking his return to domestic racing with a win in the London Open championship yesterday. The former world junior champion lost so much ground that Nick Craig was able to break clear on the demanding Addington Hills circuit. When Hammond did rejoin the chasing group, Craig was well away and won by three from Nico Clarysse, of Belgium. Hammond had to settle for third place, a further three back.

Mann is top woman

HAMMERTON: Julia Mann became the first English winner of the women's singles at the Scottish Open championship for seven years, winning in 18 minutes against Rebecca Pantaney, her compatriot, at Edinburgh yesterday (Richard Eaton writes). Mann, seeded No 2, won 11-3, 11-5 against the English No 11, who had produced the best win of her career by beating Kara Solmundson, of Canada, in the semi-finals. In the men's final, Steffen Pandya, of England, was beaten by Tito Weirstra of Holland, 15-7, 9-15, 15-11.

Sharp shooter strikes

SHOOTING: England continued to collect medals at the Commonwealth championships in Langkawi, Malaysia, where Becky Sharp, 17, the youngest member of the England team, has won two silver medals and a bronze. Sharp won her second silver medal with Louise Minett in the women's air rifle pairs, then took bronze with Louise Volpin, in the women's three-position pairs.

Sethi breakthrough

BILLIARDS: Gee Sethi won the eighth world ranking tournament of his career but his first in Britain by defeating Roxon Chapman, of Peterborough, 698-293 in the final of the Liverpool Victoria United Kingdom championship at Preston yesterday (Phil Yates writes). Sethi, a hero in his native India after capturing the world professional title on home soil on three occasions, won a prize of £7,500.

Britons feel strain

SQUASH: Simon Parke and Del Harris, of England, ran out of stamina when they were beaten in the first round of the Qatar International championship in Doha. Parke and Harris, who helped England to defend the world team championship in Malaysia last week, showed clear signs of the lingering effects of those efforts. Results, page 41

Struggle for Bray

REAL TENNIS: Rob Fahey, of Australia, and Chris Bray, the Peworth House professional, will meet in the final of The British Land British Open championship at Queen's Club tomorrow. Bray was kept on court for three hours in his semi-final before beating James Male in four sets.

Winners on the map

ORIENTEERING: Rob Lee, of Edinburgh Interlopers, and Sarah Paddington, of Mar, won the Scottish League elite titles for the first time yesterday, despite finishing outside the top three in the final event of the season at Linn of Tummel.

HOCKEY

Slough move five points clear at top

BY A CORRESPONDENT

GOOD travellers that they are, Slough achieved their expected victory at Ipswich, the 52 success putting them five points clear at the top of the women's National League. Clifton also fared well away from home, winning 3-0 win at Highdown to move into second place.

Ipswich struck first. Sarah Bamfield scoring with a snap-shot in the 21st minute. Slough opened up their game and were rewarded with goals either side of half-time from Julie Robertson, at a penalty corner, and Jane Smith.

Ipswich were revived through Tracey Fry's equaliser in the 46th minute, but their hopes were short-lived. Sarah Kelleher, the Ireland international, recovered her blocked shot to beat Jo Thompson, the Ipswich goalkeeper, at the second attempt, before two late goals from Mandy Nichols made the game safe.

Clifton wasted no time in setting up their victory. Denise Marston-Smith punished a hesitating defence from the first penalty corner after three minutes. Clifton's spirit and organisation was further rewarded in the 48th minute, when Lucy Culliford finished off a slick passing movement. A penalty stroke by Marston-Smith nine minutes later completed the scoring.

There was little change of position in the first division, but Canterbury's 14- home draw with Chelmsford strengthened the position of Leicester, the leaders, who had an emphatic 5-4 victory against Bracknell.

Cannock hit for six but remain top

BY SYDNEY FRASER

CANNOCK, despite a 6-1 trouncing by Canterbury yesterday, retained the premier division leadership of the National League, a point ahead of Southgate, Reading and East Grinstead. Canterbury hold fifth position.

Bobby Crunchley scored a consolation goal for Cannock in the 61st minute in answer to Canterbury's barrage of shots, from which Wicks and Humphries each hit the target twice, with Mathews and Hacker chipping in from short corners.

Southgate lost 5-2 on their visit to Reading, their goals coming from Woods and Duthie, from short corners. Reading's goals were provided by Saunders, Slay, from a short corner, and Manpreet Kochan and were followed by two from Pearn in the sixtieth and 62nd minutes.

East Grinstead recorded a 3-0 home win against Beeston, with goals by Laird, Barnes from a short corner and Mills.

Two mid-table teams battled for supremacy at Chigwell, where Old Loughtonians, the home side, emerged 4-3 victors over Teddington, transforming a 2-1 deficit into a 4-2 lead. Shrivess, Morrison, from a short corner, Scott Smith and Lee scored for Old Loughtonians, with Conway finding the target twice for Teddington and Laslett reducing the home side's advantage two minutes before the end.

Culliford lifted themselves off the bottom of the table with a 4-3 victory over Doncaster.

in forces
the mettle

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Results, page 41

DRT IN BRIEF

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Results up

for Bray

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for six but
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BASKETBALL

Wood reinforces Worthing mettle

By NICHOLAS HARLING

THE scammers who have seemed only too eager over the past week to publicise the demise of Worthing Bears have done little to dampen spirits on the South Coast. Not only were the Bears watched by a near-capacity crowd on Saturday, but Bob Wood, their new joint-owner, was adamant that the club will not close even though Ryan Cuff is this week almost certain to become their second player to fly home to the United States, joining Shawn Swords and the coach, Chris Jones, who have already left.

"Everyone is predicting a picture of doom and gloom, but it's not like that at all," Wood said after the Bears' 98-80 home defeat by Manchester Giants.

The world is full of basket-

ball players. I've had seven faxes today from people wanting to play for us. We've still got a pretty darn good team here and that team is not going to fold. The rumour mill has gone berserk. I've been patient until now, but I'm just about to lose it."

Wood and Christian Hamilton have taken over as co-owners from Greg Fullerton, whose assets have been frozen by the Inland Revenue, leaving the club precariously short of funds. Cuff, one of the most exciting new American guards in the Budweiser League this season, is not desperate to join the exodus, but is in a dilemma.

Favoured so heavily by momentum, it was no surprise that Hendry convincingly won the deciding frame to earn a reprieve and a quarter-final against Alan McManus or Jason Prince.

SNOOKER

Hamilton reeled in by Hendry

By PETER YATES

ANTHONY HAMILTON, still searching in vain for his first quarter-final in a world ranking event after making 11 unsuccessful appearances in the last 16, again played the role of nearly-man when he lost 9-8 to Stephen Hendry in a memorable fourth-round encounter at the Liverpool Victoria United Kingdom Championship at Preston Guild Hall on Saturday night.

Normally a prolific scorer from the back court, Cuff was clearly below his best on Saturday. Displaying his usual panache, he opened the scoring with a three-pointer, but was benched after two senseless fouls; after which he added only two more three-pointers, finishing with 11 points. Ryan Williams, who is sharing the coaching with the club's long-term assistant coach, Neil McElroy, collected 25 points, two fewer than Robert Churchwell's match-winning contribution for the Giants.

The score was almost the same at Crystal Palace, where Newcastle Eagles won 97-80 with the help of 22 points from Liam McCullagh. Palace made the running in the early stages, but an 11-0 burst from the Eagles in the final quarter put the game out of their reach.

Leopards and Birmingham Bullets, meanwhile, both seem to have booked themselves a place in the quarter-finals of the Uni-ball Trophy after wins over Thames Valley Tigers and Watford Royals on Saturday.

SAILING

Krantz applies finishing touch after flying start

FROM EDWARD GORMAN
SAILING CORRESPONDENT
IN FREMANTLE

IT WILL go down as one of the greatest "flyers" in yacht racing history and yesterday it paid its final dividend when the elegant *Swedish Match* ghosted across the finish line here to record a resounding victory in the second leg of the Whitbread Round the World Race.

It was a victory more or less sealed just two hours after the start in Cape Town 15 days ago, when Gunnar Krantz, the skipper, and his No 2, Eric Williams, broke all their own rules and tacked off to the west to find an offshore breeze while the remainder of the fleet floundered in calms in the lee of the Cape Peninsula.

From then on, *Swedish Match*, which suffered an equivalent dose of bad luck in the first leg, when she was left behind on the very first night and finally reached South Africa in eighth place, never looked back. She built a 200-mile lead and despite feeling "bound" as they rode successive low-pressure systems through the Southern Ocean, Krantz and his crew were good enough to hold on.

As they arrived yesterday, *Kvaerner Innovation* was around 200 miles astern in second place, with *Toshiba* another 100 miles further back in third.

For Krantz, this was the perfect answer to his critics after his poor showing on the way to Cape Town. He has never denied that there was an element of luck in his tactics at the start, but it is to his credit that he had the courage to go for a risky and potentially

ruinous option and to make it work.

"Looking back, we can see clear milestones on the leg where we did good," he said. "We had lots of luck at times when the weather gods looked after us in critical situations. One such was when we were racing south to escape the high pressure system moving in south of Africa at the beginning of the leg. I am sure we are talking about a couple of hours difference from being tragic."

Swedish Match's performance, which propels her to fourth position overall, underlines the importance of not breaking gear, but it also emphasises that the key to winning in this race has so far been less to do with boat speed than with routing and tactics. In so closely matched a fleet, the smallest tactical variations have produced enormous contrasts in fortunes.

Among those left to dwell on that for the past week has been Chris Dalton, on *Merit Cup*, who has had to come to terms with the shock of finding himself dumped in seventh place. Yet he was big enough to congratulate Krantz.

"What is impressive is that they have been able to pick themselves up from an even bigger disaster in the first leg than we are having and come back fighting. This to me is their true strength and is a model for us for our next leg," he said.

"We are just going through the motions. If that sounds defeatist, it's not. Just the reality of this situation where you get no prizes for breaking the boat now."

Keep our opinions
to yourself.

It's all very well to say share and share alike, but in all honesty wouldn't you prefer to enjoy at leisure your own copy of the Times Educational Supplement? The FE Focus section, in particular, really does deserve much more than a rushed flick through in the staffroom. So for opinions worth taking the time to listen to, buy your own copy, take it home and keep it to yourself.

REFOCUS

TES

THE TIMES EDUCATIONAL SUPPLEMENT

Alan Lee on the Scot setting the pace in the RAC Rally in pursuit of the world title



McRae, in his Subaru, takes to the air in his haste to show his rivals a clean pair of wheels during the special stage at Millbrook on the opening day of the Network Q RAC Rally yesterday. Photograph: Marc Aspland

McRae's hopes accelerated by blistering start

He did not expect to enjoy the intricate showpiece of the opening day and he was right. However, Colin McRae, returned to headquarters in the Network Q RAC Rally last night with his improbable dream alive and kicking, the roles in the world championship duel subtly altered.

Inside, fog was fast descending, all but obliterating the view from the stands. The crowds that embrace rally obsessively had begun queuing at 4am; thousands

were there, shivering and squinting, as McRae took an

early lead over Mäkinen before the fourth car away brought the first and most profound drama of the day.

The rally cannot be won on its first day, but for the leaders, if all certainty is lost, Kenneth Eriksson is

McRae's Subaru team-mate.

Mäkinen was seen as his

guard, someone who might

help to keep Mäkinen out of

the top six. The team insurance theory tested precisely

500 metres into the murk,

when Eriksson's engine

gave a terminal splutter.

McRae and his co-driver,

Nicky Grist, were immediately exposed; their management anxious.

The concern was not only

for Eriksson, a popular

Swede, who was left devastated

proaches blocked, competitors bringing in their cars from the secure nightstop in the town obeyed instinct rather than highway code, driving up the wrong carriageway and even taking the racecourse roundabout anticlockwise to avoid the penalties of un punctuality.

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The great claim of the organisers is that theirs is Britain's biggest sporting event". They say it is watched annually by 2.5 million people, though as a negligible number have to register their attendance with hard cash it is not clear if this includes everyone who switches their net curtains as the cars pass their homes. Cheltenham, though, did nothing to mock the claims. The stands were packed, every vantage point taken.

McRae led Mäkinen by less after the initial stage round the asphalt and gravel roads of the racecourse and he was soon up after the next dash through Blenheim. Soon, Mäkinen had other problems, too. On the second of three stages at Silverstone, his Mitsubishi hit a tyre barrier and sustained panel damage. To make matters worse, the Finn — apparently assured of the title until McRae's charging victories in Italy and Australia — was

the hero." Early to be confident, of course, but as the posse moved on to Millbrook, then back for an innovative Silverstone superstage, on which two cars drove head to head, Richards began to wear the look of a prophet. McRae and Mäkinen set off together,

the Scot flashing his rival a relaxed grin before launching into the water-splash and increasing his lead by a further second.

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Spirited and skilful performance reduces all-conquering All Blacks to ranks of mere mortals

England emerge from the shadows

England..... 8
New Zealand..... 25

By DAVID HANDS
RUGBY CORRESPONDENT

If THE first meeting between England and New Zealand proved an appetising dish, the second will be positively mouthwatering. It is no disrespect to the holders of the World Cup, South Africa, to suggest that a clear fortnight of build-up to Twickenham on December 6, when the All Blacks conclude their tour, would, after the tumult of Old Trafford on Saturday, have the entire game in England abuzz.

Instead, England must prepare for the game on Saturday against the Springboks, who arrived yesterday in triumph from France, without Martin Johnson, the man who led the British Isles to a series win in South Africa, while Wales take their turn in trying to hold New Zealand at Wembley.

ENGLAND'S AUTUMN CHALLENGE

bley. At least we will know how far England can raise their game after the next fortnight, given that they have already elevated their standards beyond belief in the brief span between drawing with Australia last week and losing to New Zealand on Saturday.

The trap into which Clive Woodward will not allow his players to fall is that of thinking that defeat by 17 points was some kind of a victory. England played a game of heart-warming passion — meat and drink to the crowd of 55,243, who made the Rugby Football Union's venture into the North West for the Lloyds/TSB international such a success — and with no little skill. Only once, though, could they break New Zealand down. When they did succeed was in making the All Blacks look, on occasions, distinctly ordinary and they will bauld on that knowledge.

So will New Zealand. John Hart, their coach, suggested that their errors played England into the game, but mistakes seldom accrue unless players are under pressure — and the All Blacks were. Part of their method is the mythology that surrounds them and England's young team have seen, at first hand, that they can be as human as the next

evidence and agreed on the punishment. It will leave Johnson free to play in the second meeting with New Zealand at Twickenham on December 6.

New Zealand would have cited Johnson for the offence, which carries a 30-day suspension, had England chosen to take no action. "I have spoken to Martin, who has fully accepted responsibility... and he will be making a full apology to Justin Marshall," Clive Woodward, the England coach, said yesterday. "I would like to add my own words of regret over this incident, which has no place in English or international rugby."

Johnson has been involved in punch-

ing incidents before, one of which cost his team a try against Argentina last season, and another against Wales. He was part of a Lions team that set outstanding standards of discipline in South Africa, but the new England management is keen to demonstrate that no individual is above the game's laws.

At one stage, the New Zealand management feared Marshall's jaw might have been broken and the scrum half's hearing was disturbed for much of the game.

"I had made a tackle, the ball became available and I had my back turned to England when I received a blow on the head," Marshall said.

Johnson banned for Springboks match

By DAVID HANDS

MARTIN JOHNSON, who led the British Isles to a series victory over South Africa during the summer, will miss England's meeting with the Springboks at Twickenham on Saturday after being suspended by his own management. Johnson was given a one-match ban after punching Justin Marshall, the New Zealand captain, in the seventh minute of the international at Old Trafford.

John Hart, the All Blacks coach, was incensed by what he described as an "act of thuggery" by Johnson. Both team managements discussed the incident on Saturday night, watched video

Cultural clash fuels head-on confrontation

David Hands examines New Zealand's complaints at a lack of respect shown during their traditional haka



Cockerill and Hewitt, the opposing hookers, stand nose to nose

the haka is also in its way, a psychological weapon and few would complain if England chose, in Australasian parlance, to "front up". "It's not meant to be intimidat-

ing. Justin Marshall, the All Blacks captain on Saturday, said, "It's just part of our culture, something we do." Clearly, he has never been faced by the substantial figure of Jonah Lomu or Va'aiga Tuigamala in full cry during the

match, which concludes with a leap into the air that, performed by a 6ft 5in player, can have at least an unsettling effect.

Willie Anderson's Ireland team in 1989 linked arms and made a gradual advance on Wayne Shelford's team during the haka at Lansdowne Road; David Campese, during the World Cup semi-final at the same ground in 1991 between Australia and New Zealand, took himself off to the far end of the ground and kicked a ball around while the challenge was roared out. Others have retreated to their own 22 to observe at a distance — and, if that is their wish, who should blame them?

The All Blacks were also faintly surprised at England's return to the pitch at the end of the match, believing there to be nothing worth celebrating in defeat. In fact, it was the home side's tribute to the crowd, a gesture of thanks to Manchester and the North West for giving both teams so memorable a day. "The atmosphere was brilliant," Clive Woodward, the England coach, said. "We are looking forward to returning to Twickenham, it's our home ground, but I would love to see Twickenham as Old Trafford was."

Lomu supplies antidote to base moments

Rob Hughes rejoices in the return of a colossus to the international stage

If the comeback of Jonah Lomu is not yet up to speed, heaven help England when, as the All Blacks management promises, he returns fitter, faster and stronger for the second international on Saturday week.

Lomu's magnetic power, drawing four of England's finest, opened up the Old Trafford field for the first try in the thirteenth minute, a score from which England did not recover. It doesn't take a student of the game, merely of life, to appreciate the extraordinary achievement of the man, not in sporting terms alone, but as an example of human triumph after a year confronting grueling treatment for a kidney disease.

The cure attacks a man's mental as well as physical state and, back in Auckland, a hemisphere away, Lomu's Tongan parents, Semisi and Hepi, watched their convalescent son come back into the world's television eye. To us, he is a colossus; to them, he is a baby, thrilled to bits to run on the left wing where Ryan Giggs, Jonah's own hero, can be so swift and hypnotic.

Sport is such a compelling cameo of life that the international on Saturday stripped Lomu down to the bare nerve before fulfilling his. Twice, his opponent, David Rees, hauling their combined 35 stones with him, the ball like a pebble in his massive hand, the mightiest All Black looked anything but a man still taking his medicine.

"It's not about size," he said admiring Rees' challenges, "it's about heart." Indeed, it is. It was Tania, his young wife, who gave him the heart to come back when the doctors

were unsure and,

together with Christian Cullen,

whose surges uplifted the soul, and Jeff Wilson, quicksilver on the right, there could never have been such a counter-attacking force in rugby.

Their pace and

handling is priceless and, for all the trumpeting of England's bold spirit, it is a fact that New Zealand won by their greatest margin on English turf. Lomu's tenacity and ready for the next match soon retreated to his Walkman. John Hart, his coach, spoke of working to eradicate the All Black errors, and working John Lomu to regain all that was taken from him.

"Delighted with his start," the coach said, "but you're going to see some improvement in the next couple of weeks."

As he spoke, and the All Blacks filed past, almost sheepish at not squashing England, the strident strains of triumphalism resounded around Old Trafford. It had been an eye-opening, uplifting experiment, taking rugby north. This is part of our Land of Hope, but the Glory went to New Zealand and, for reasons beyond sport, the human achievement was embodied in one very big convalescent by name Jonah Lomu.

MARC ASPLUND



Back, the England replacement flanker, struggles to contain the marauding Lomu at Old Trafford on Saturday

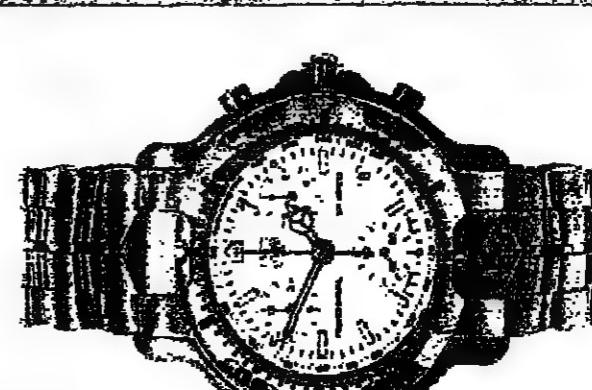
MATCH FACTS: HOW THE PLAY UNFOLDED																
LINEOUTS																
Award	E22	EH	AH	A22	Won	Run	Kick	Drive	Last	Void						
England	15	5	1	6	3	13	3	—	10	1	2					
New Zealand	18	4	8	4	—	13	—	—	8	1	3					
Lineouts: 8; Arches: 4; Johnson: 3; Brook: 3; Randell: 1; Dallaglio, Diprose; others not decisive. Void: 4 penalties to New Zealand, 1 knock on (Blowers).																
SCRUMS																
Award	E22	EH	AH	A22	Run	Kick	Drive	Last	Void							
England	13	1	3	6	3	5	12	6	—							
New Zealand	11	4	3	7	4	1	4	12	4							
Penalties: 8 knock on; 2 held up; 1 ball to ground; 1 selected scrum; 1 forward pass; 1 forward on.																
PENALTIES																
Award	E22	EH	AH	A22	Run	Touch	3pts	Miss								
England	18	2	3	5	3	8	1	3								
New Zealand	13	5	4	5	—	8	2	1								
Conceded: England: 4 offside; 3 passing; 2 not retaining; 2 dangerous play; 1 hands on floor; 1 through at the lineout. New Zealand: 8 offside; 5 over the top; 2 dangerous play; 1 not retaining; 4 hands on floor.																
KICKING RECORD																
Goals																
Award	Atts	Pens	Goals	Atts	Suc	Atts	Suc	Atts	Suc	%						
England	1	—	4	1	5	1	20									
New Zealand	3	2	8	2	5	4	67									
Cuts: one out of five. Matravine: four out of six.																

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touchline
theatricals
steal show



LEICESTER CITY 0
BOLTON WANDERERS 1
By Keith Pike

IT WAS a performance of vivid imagination and admirable stamini, an afternoon on which the passion of the British game left onlookers breathless. The match? Sterile and predictable. Martin O'Neill? Worth the admission money on his own.

To see the Leicester City manager cowering on the touchline, arms whirling like some demented traffic cop, and to hear his voice hollering above the din was to witness the frustrations of football management reach such an intensity that you feared for his sanity. Tackling imaginary opponents, taking imaginary shots and pursuing a linesman 20 yards while waving an imaginary flag, O'Neill worked himself into a real enoughather.

Colin Todd was clearly incensed, too, and when both managers are in finger-wagging mode it is plain that something is amiss. Graham Barber and his assistants indeed had an undistinguished match, spotting everything trivial but missing too many moments that mattered, including a valid penalty appeal by Leicester three minutes from time, when Whitlow handled Wilson's cross, and a crude, studs-up challenge on Thompson by Lennon that went unpunished.

O'Neill admitted that, by the end, he had "lost the plot". His volatility by now replaced with that dazzling smile and infectious good humour, he contented himself with saying that "it was not one of Graham's best games". But then his real concern, of course, is not with officials at all. Leicester may be sixth in the FA Carling Premiership, their supporters hoping for another European adventure, but O'Neill knows that survival remains the priority and is by no means certain.

Plenty of people scoffed last season, too, when O'Neill, his team in mid-table and focused on Wembley, suggested that relegation was a threat; yet it was only a late goal in their penultimate league match that guaranteed their safety. This game on Saturday confirmed that Leicester, again, have neither the pace nor the spontaneity needed to unlock a disciplined defence; that there is really little to choose between them and sides such as Bolton, who are favourites to figure in the relegation scrap.

"I am long enough in the Premiership to know that there is only Manchester United and Arsenal, and a few of the big sides, who can actually take their eye off the ball for a week or two and know that they will get it right, because they have loads of experience and, inevitably, very good players," O'Neill conceded. "We can't treat any team lightly, even the likes of Bolton, who are near the bottom of the league." The result at Anfield proved that he would "again have to keep an eye on the foot of the table".

With £6 million to spend, O'Neill is desperate to add some attacking brio to a team high on work-rate, low on inspiration. Had Marshall or Izet converted either of the two clear-cut chances that Leicester created, Victory would merely have disguised their limitations; had Blake, the perennial waster of opportunities, not hit the side netting from eight yards, Bolton could have capped a display that rightly delighted Todd for its commitment. Either way, this was a match all too easily forgotten.

LEICESTER CITY (3-5-2): K. Keeler — S. Prior, M. Elliot, S. Walsh — P. Kinsella, M. Izet, N. Lennon, G. Thompson, J. Whitlow — C. Todd, M. O'Neill — S. Charlton (sub: G. Fenton (2)) — M. Marshall. BOLTON WANDERERS (4-4-2): K. Barnes — G. Thompson, A. D. Holdsworth, M. Johnson, P. Polson, A. Thompson — P. Francisco, M. Johansen (sub: A. Gunnlaugsson, 89) — D. Holdsworth, N. Blake. Referee: G. Barber

Barnsley capitalise on confidence crisis afflicting Anfield

Liverpool's faith beyond belief

LAURENCE GRIFTHES / ALLSPORT



LIVERPOOL 0
BARNESLEY 1
By Matt Dickinson

ONE day, Liverpool will really surprise everyone and start looking like champions. Until then — and that moment seems further away than ever — results like this will shock very few, least of all those dispirited souls on Merseyside.

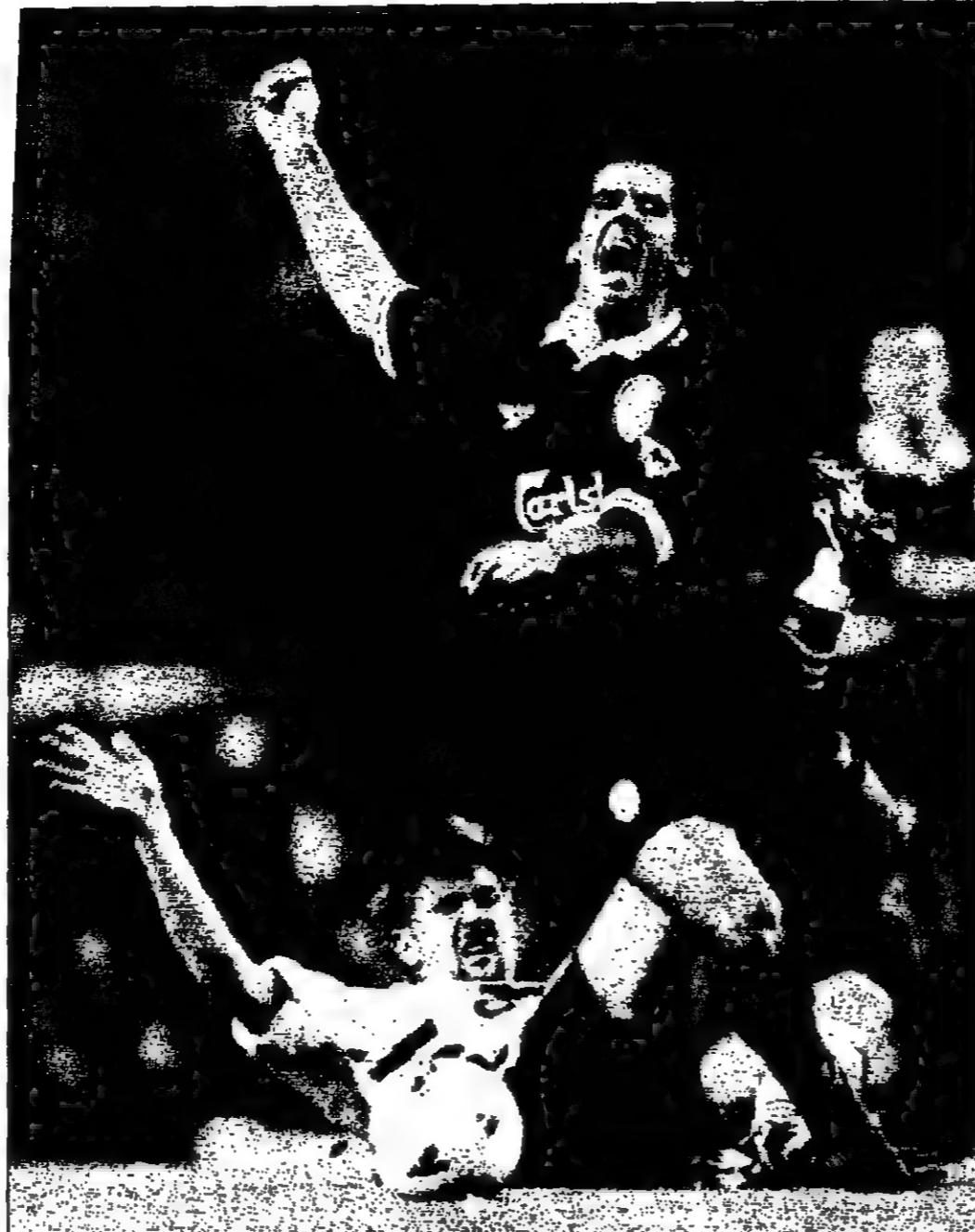
Certainly the supporters who trudged disconsolately out of Anfield on Saturday, pausing briefly to jeer their team from the pitch, greeted this defeat exactly as they did the news that Manchester United were rampaging further ahead at the top of the FA Carling Premiership — with a shrug of resignation. There was a novelty value about Barnsley taking the lead after 35 minutes, but by the end it had given way to a collective sense of impending doom. "We were lucky," Danny Wilson, the Barnsley manager, said, but he was being kind.

Asked in the week to predict a one-sided rout, one member of the Liverpool camp claimed: "You never know with us." At least he was being honest, but if those within the confines of Anfield are not confident of beating a stricken team languishing at the foot of the table, they can hardly expect anyone else to have faith.

"Where do you start?" Roy Evans, the Liverpool manager, pondered when asked to explain the defeat. He was not the only one at a loss. The problems besetting his team have gone beyond the realm of regular football analysis and into complex psychology.

How else can one start to fathom how they lost to a Barnsley team who played well, if only by their own standards, and who had been beaten in their last five FA Carling Premiership games away from home and conceded 40 goals at an average of almost three per match this season?

The absence of Robbie Fowler



A run by Riedle, who scored several chances for Liverpool, is brought to a painful conclusion

and Paul Ince, both suspended, was little excuse. While Fowler would surely not have squandered as many chances as Karthlein Riedle, and Patrik Berger and Oyvind Leonhardsen, combined, could not compensate for the loss of Ince's dynamism, this defeat went deeper than a couple of

absent players. It was down to a loss of will.

It would have been refreshing, at least, to have seen a Liverpool player losing his temper, grabbing the game by the scruff of the neck and trying to alter the destiny of the afternoon. Yet no one appeared capable of it and one wonders

whether they ever will. "It was the game we should have won," Evans said, but they never deserved to, despite the number of opportunities that came their way. Riedle, who spent most of the afternoon falling over, was the worst culprit, shooting over the crossbar when well-placed in the

penalty spot when it hit the shirt of Berger, for whom nothing went right all afternoon, and fell straight into Ward's path for a simple finish. It was a goal the Barnsley striker deserved for an afternoon of tireless endeavour after a month on the sidelines with viral meningitis.

For Wilson, whose outburst after their defeat at Southampton had clearly shaken life into his side, this was a triumph to be savoured, even if it was largely aided by Liverpool's inept display. The players knew their last performance would not be tolerated and today they showed how professional they are," he said. None more so than Peter Markstedt, the centre half, who made a towering debut after £25,000 transfer from Sweden.

With Adrian Moses following Steve McManaman's every move, Liverpool laboured to break down Barnsley's defence and it was not until the appearance of Danny Murphy, with less than half an hour to go, that they really began to find openings. The England Under-21 international, signed from Crewe Alexandra in the summer, has had to be patient, making just four appearances before Saturday, but he deserves to retain his place, on this showing.

"We're staying on," the travelling supporters sang and they will face Leeds United next week with their confidence revived and suddenly feeling as if this is a campaign to be relished. For Liverpool, though, who now face Arsenal at Highbury and then Manchester United at home, time is running out. At least with such daunting opponents they should have little trouble motivating themselves, but their failure to do so against Barnsley on Saturday will haunt them for months to come.

LIVERPOOL (4-4-2): D. James — J. McIner, S. Murphy, S. McManaman, J. Parkinson, P. Berger, O. Leonhardsen — M. Owen, K. Riedle (sub: P. Markstedt) — A. D. Holdsworth, E. Tudor, N. Redman, A. Moses — A. Liddle (sub: M. Appleby, 89), A. Ward (sub: J. Hendrie, 80). Referee: J. Winters.

Strachan's week ends on lowest of notes



DERBY COUNTY 3
COVENTRY CITY 1
By Richard Hobson

WHEN Harold Wilson talked about a week being a long time in politics, he meant that fortunes can alter violently within a relatively short period. There is a more pessimistic way of interpreting this. An awful lot can go wrong in seven days, as Gordon Strachan, the Coventry City manager, has discovered.

Open diary. Last Monday, he lost Roger Spy, the Coventry fitness coach, to FC Porto. Elimination from the Coca-Cola Cup followed at Highbury on Tuesday and, three days later Alex Miller, his assistant manager, left to take charge of Aberdeen. As if defeat to Derby County provided insufficient woes on Saturday, then his comments about David Elleray, the referee, may also prompt a disreputable charge from the Football Association.

Strachan went into the referee's room at half-time to ask about a possible handball in the build-up to the third Derby goal. "I was gobsmacked by his reply," Strachan said. "He made a flippanc remark and it must have astonished him, too, because he then locked the door and tried to retract what he said. I have had referees lock me out before, but never in.

"It must be time for full-time referees. I would love to be a part-time manager as well as an accountant and do it as a hobby at the weekend. Referees can be flippanc because it is a hobby to them. It is a vehicle to be a celebrity." As he left the press conference, Strachan said of Elleray, a housemaster at Harrow School: "He can go back and tell the schoolchildren he had a good laugh at the weekend." Elleray declined to comment and, according to a Derby steward, was escorted from the ground to his car via a side exit.

Somehow, the heavy mist seemed an appropriate backdrop to a game sprinkled with menace. Nine players were booked for foul tackles, the most in an FA Carling Premiership fixture since April, yet Elleray set his standard in taking the name of Hall for clattering into Kozluk and remained consistent. Jim Smith, the Derby manager, resembled a wise owl rather than a bald eagle when he said that at least Elleray had made decisions rather than abdicating his duty.

Then again, Smith could afford to be in a lighter mood than his counterpart. Victory lifted his side into fifth place — and Derby are not there by accident. Baiano and Erano have added quality to a workmanlike bunch, and Wanchope is striking the fear of God into defenders at present.

Baiano scored his ninth league goal of the season when he punished a poor clearing header by Breen with a left-foot shot after two minutes and Erano converted a penalty in the 25th minute after Baiano had been bundled over by Burrows. Ten minutes later, Baiano slipped a pass through square defence and Wanchope lifted it over the advancing Ogrizovic.

Evidence from Elland Road a fortnight earlier suggested that Derby are at their most vulnerable when three goals ahead. Hockerty, shooting under Poom in the seventieth minute, posed problems, especially after Laurose was injured in a challenge by McAllister, but, while Derby lost their sharpness and poise at the back, they still had too much in hand. DERBY COUNTY (3-4-2-1): S. M. Moore — D. P. Peacock, P. Abbott, A. Pictures — K. G. Jones, R. Lee, D. Batty, T. Kelsale — J. D. Watson, C. Lundström, J. C. Jones — J. D. Watson (sub: D. Peacock, 80), G. R. Jones, G. Jones — R. Kozluk, S. Baiano, I. C. Jones, C. Powell — F. Belotti. SOUTHAMPTON (4-3-2-1): P. Jones — J. D. Dadd, K. Monks, C. Lundström, F. Benali — K. Richardson, C. Palmer, M. Collyer (sub: L. Todd, Benali — M. Le Tissier, A. V. Johnson, 57) — J. D. Dadd, K. Monks, R. Shaw, G. Breen, D. Burrows — P. Teller, D. Hoddle, P. Williams (sub: W. Boland, 89). Referee: D. Elleray.

Newcastle find Barnes the finished article



NEWCASTLE UNITED 2
SOUTHAMPTON 1
By Ivo Tennant

THE encyclopedic knowledge of football that Kenny Dalglish possesses is such that he had not even a momentary doubt about asking John Barnes to fulfil, in his 35th year, the most exacting of all roles. For three successive matches, the former Liverpool captain has carried Newcastle United's attack and proved a worthy heir to a noble tradition.

The Newcastle manager, troubled by injuries to Shearer, Asprilla and Rush, had recalled a match in the mid-1980s in which Barnes played brilliantly as a centre forward for Watford. Their opponents that day were Liverpool and Dalglish had seen enough. Here was a winger who was potentially an exceptional footballer and a versatile one, too.

On Saturday, with Tomasson positioned just behind him and Gillespie providing any number of mesmerising crosses, Barnes scored twice. The first was, for someone of his ability, a straightforward, left-foot shot when the ball rebounded fortuitously off a



Barnes, the scorer of both Newcastle goals, beats Jones, but this effort was disallowed for offside

post, but the second was classy. It was also the match-winner.

There were 14 minutes remaining when Gillespie curled another centre in front of the Southampton central defenders. It was swerving, seemingly, too far behind Barnes, but he twisted in his jump and timed his angled header to perfection.

The praise that Dalglish meted out was based on an example and an approach that he felt had been exemplary down the years.

They have known each other too

long for Barnes to refer to his manager as anything so clichéd as "the gaffer". He would, he said, fill

deftly until supported from midfield. Midway through the second half, he withdrew behind Tomasson, Kersbina taking his place in a more bludgeoning way.

Given that Asprilla is not yet deemed fit enough to be given a match for the first time since October 1, the likelihood is that Barnes will continue as the main striker against Barcelona in the European Cup Champions' League this week. Come January, which is the latest projected month for Shearer's return, he will be glad, no doubt, to fall back into midfield. Whatever, he had shown again what a performer he still is.

For Newcastle, this was a fitting

farewell to Sir John Hall, who retires as their chairman at the end of the month. Nobody received a greater ovation all afternoon, not even Barnes. If Southampton appeared to have a bit part in this, it was not so at the start, when Davies scored his tenth goal in 15 matches with a purposeful run into the penalty area and a controlled finish.

He must now be worth considerably more than the £650,000 that Southampton spent to acquire him from Chesterfield in the summer.

"Kevin is learning his trade and we are looking for a little bit more from him, but he will be a force at this level," David Jones, his manager, said, overlooking the fact that, with a record like this, he already is.

In one sense, Southampton were

fortunate not to be beaten more

easily. Lundström, normally the

most stylish of defenders, pulled

Tomasson's shirt towards the

midpoint of the first half when he was clear

of his markers and converging on

the penalty area. Dermot Gallagher, the referee, proved

more tolerant than some of his ilk

and chose not to send him off. If

nothing else, Newcastle's victory

was more satisfying as a conse-

quence of having been hard-

earned.

NEWCASTLE UNITED (4-4-1-1): S. Watson — S.

Gillespie, D. Peacock, P. Abbott, A. Pictures — K.

G. Jones, R. Lee, D. Batty, T. Kelsale — J. D.

Watson, C. Lundström, J. C. Jones — J. D.

Watson (sub: D. Peacock, 80), G. Jones, G. Jones — R.

Kozluk, S. Baiano, I. C. Jones, C. Powell — F. Belotti.

SOUTHAMPTON (4-3-2-1): P. Jones — J. D.

Dadd, K. Monks, C. Lundström, F. Benali — K.

Richardson, C. Palmer, M. Collyer (sub: L. Todd, Benali — M. Le Tissier, A. V. Johnson, 57) — J. D.

Dadd, K. Monks, R. Shaw, G. Breen, D. Burrows — P. Teller, D. Hoddle, P. Williams (sub: W. Boland, 89).

Referee: D. Elleray.

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Hearts engrossed in breaking dominance of Old Firm

Tidings of Motherwell's equaliser in the 1-1 draw with Rangers on Saturday were met by Celtic supporters with the sort of glee that none of their own team's goals in a 4-0 victory over Dundee United could quite inspire. Such a reaction is born of rivalry, but the grip that each club has on the other is as much of an embrace as a stranglehold.

Despite the enmity, the followers of Rangers and Celtic are united by the agreement that their sides share a significance that leaves the other members of the Bell's Scottish League premier division as underlings. Over the decades, of course, there has been a dollop of justice in that smugness, but there is just a chance that Old Firm fans could suffer for their conceit this season.

With a boisterous 5-3 win over

Kilmarnock at Tynecastle yesterday, Heart of Midlothian opened up a four-point lead over Rangers at the top of the table. Given the measure of conviction and verve shown to recover from the loss of a goal by Pat Nevin in the fifth minute, Jim Jefferies' side will probably not react to their lofty position with a bout of vertigo.

For the Old Firm, money is ordinance and, beyond Glasgow, there would be public chortling if the others share a significance that leaves the other members of the Bell's Scottish League premier division as underlings. Over the decades, of course, there has been a dollop of justice in that smugness, but there is just a chance that Old Firm fans could suffer for their conceit this season.

With a boisterous 5-3 win over

practical reasons for the success that should continue to apply over the months ahead.

The club is always being issued with tiresome and superfluous reminders of the fact that 35 years have passed since a trophy was won, yet Hearts now appear capable of making a break with that gloom past.

Their matches are even played within a symbol of rejuvenation. Tynecastle has been rebuilt on three of its sides, with the cost partly met by £6 million raised by city institutions. Attendances are on the rise and

the club envisages the day when, as a matter of course, the stadium is filled whenever maroon jerseys take the field.

Tynecastle, with its 18,000 capacity, is a much smaller venue than Celtic Park or Ibrox, but Hearts are beginning to enjoy the atmosphere of and confidence that has so long underpinned the Old Firm. Jefferies also seems to have located men who are stimulated rather than intimidated by the expectation.

The manager has been obliged to shop wisely since Hearts, with an overdraft to reduce and bricks

and mortar to purchase, have not been able to afford much cash for fripperies such as players. Yesterday, three of their goals came from Stephane Adam, who was signed from Metz, of France, for nothing, another was provided by Neil McCann, bought for only £25,000, and the scoring was rounded off by Jose Quinton, the substitute, an £80,000 acquisition.

The match did not show Hearts at their most co-ordinated, but there was sufficient aplomb in attack to extricate them from the muddle created by an adventurous Kilmarnock. Adam brought the game level at 1-1, by heading in Stefano Salvatori's cross in the ninth minute. A lead was established 18 minutes later with a move that was both deft and clever. McCann worked his way

through with the aid of passes from Thomas Fogel and Steve Fulton before finishing at the near post. Adam glanced in the third goal, in the sixth minute, after David Weir had headed Salvatori's free-kick across the six-yard box.

Although Holt scored to reduce

the deficit to 3-2, Hearts seemed capable of amassing whatever quantity of goals was required.

Adam completed his hat-trick,

after rapid passes by Weir and

Fogel had opened space on the right, and although the visitors responded with a penalty that Mark Roberts converted, Quinton took the margin of victory to 5-3 in the final minutes.

At full-time, Zip-a-Dee-Dah blared merrily from the loudspeakers. Wonderful feeling, wonderful day. And more to come.



Jefferies: has bought wisely

FOOTBALL

Birmingham slide leaves Francis down on his luck

West Bromwich Albion 1
Birmingham City 0

BY RUSSELL KEMPSON

IT HAS not been a good week to be a Francis. At White Hart Lane on Wednesday, Gerry Francis, the Tottenham Hotspur manager, finally gave up the impossible fight and resigned; at The Hawthorns yesterday, Trevor Francis, the Birmingham City manager, edged another step nearer a similar fate. If local gossip is to be believed, he may be assisted in his decision.

Birmingham have won only once in 14 matches in the Nationwide League first division, collecting nine points from a possible 42. They lie in fourteenth place, lodged in the nowhere land between a play-off place and relegation. More worryingly, Francis was given a vote of confidence by David Gold, the club chairman, on Monday.

Rumours abounded, but talk is cheap. Francis is unlikely to be dismissed, even if the news is bad when Birmingham play against Portsmouth at home next week. Steve Bruce, the captain, is still perhaps a season away from accepting his first player-manager's job, whether it be at St Andrew's or farther afield.

Such unrest, though, helps nobody. "Certain sections of the media are trying to tear the club apart," Francis said, choosing his words carefully. "The board have said nothing to me. It is not what you hear during the week that matters, it is what you see at the weekend."

What the Birmingham fans witnessed was a third successive defeat, yet perversely, it prompted a third successive standing ovation.



Sneaks: late goal

As in their previous games against Norwich City and Nottingham Forest, they did more than enough to have eased the pressure on Francis. They dominated from start to finish, led by the craft and urgency of Marsden in midfield, only to fail to a goal from Sneaks in the 83rd minute.

"We played with spirit, passed the ball well and created numerous chances," Francis said. "The first half was as one-sided a 45 minutes as I have seen since I've been at the club. When you're playing that well, you expect to go in two or three goals ahead. I was pleased with the performance, but very disappointed at the result."

Sneaks agreed. "They didn't deserve to lose, we were hopeless," he said. "We had all the luck today; maybe they'll get it next time." So did Ray Harford, the West Bromwich Albion manager, whose side limped almost apologetically into second place in the table. "They were better than us for most of the game," he said.

Birmingham would have gone in at half-time two or three goals ahead, but for the agility of Miller, the West Bromwich goalkeeper. On a cold, misty afternoon, he kept warm by saving from Bruce, Furlong and McCarthy. Robinson also half-volleyed over the crossbar when nicely positioned.

The trend continued after the interval, with McCarthy and Robinson involved in Birmingham's best work. Miller, though, was again unbeatable, tipping over Grainger's fierce free kick, pushing aside Furlong's deflected 20-yard drive and then clasping another long-range effort from Grainger.

West Bromwich competed more vigorously, yet lacked any genuine threat until Sneaks' low shot from the edge of the area sliced past Bennett. "We only need one chance," the home supporters crowed, adding to the sense of despondency in the blue corner.

Football club directors are not noted for their grasp of reality, but should perhaps dwell a while on the words of Gary Ablett, the Birmingham defender. "I hope they keep faith and realise we're on the right lines," he said. "We all feel for Trevor and want to help him get out of this."

WEST BROMWICH ALBION (4-4-2): A Miller — P Hobson, D Burgess, P Marion, D Smith — J Hamilton, P Butler — S Flynn (sub: L Hughes, 88min), A Harford, K Miller. BIRMINGHAM CITY (4-4-2): Bennett — J Bent, S Bruce, G Ablett, M Johnson (sub: P Devlin, 89) — J McCarthy, S Robinson, C Marsden, M Granger, P Furlong, A Colles (sub: P Nduka, 87). Substitutes: S Barnes.



Hunt, the West Bromwich striker, goes past Robinson's sliding challenge in the West Midlands derby at The Hawthorns yesterday

Forest have the qualities for top level

Nottingham Forest 5
Charlton Athletic 2

BY NICK SZCZEPANEK

FEW people have any difficulty picturing Nottingham Forest in the FA Carling Premiership next season. The Nationwide League first division leaders, after all, have recent European experience, a manager with first-hand knowledge of what it takes to gain promotion and even a Holland international centre forward.

Charlton, on the other hand, although regularly praised by opponents, suffer from something of

a credibility gap, which the game at the City Ground on Saturday only served to widen. "We let ourselves down," Alan Curbishley, their manager, said.

"We've come to Forest, who are top of the league, we're sixth and you don't get 5-2 scorelines in that situation — you put up a bit of a show. We went one down, then decided it was a five-side. We'd go up our end, try to score and let them go up our end to score."

On this form, Forest are the last team in the division with whom to attempt to trade goals. Stone may not be back to full fitness, but his speed of thought is intact and the one-touch play between him.

Charlton and Van Hooijdonk

prised Charlton apart. The passing of the visitors, although neat, looked leader by comparison.

A diving header by Leaburn, saved at full stretch by Beasant, was a false dawn for Charlton.

After 20 minutes, vintage Forest counter-attack, reminiscent of the early days of Brian Clough, ended with Campbell setting up Van Hooijdonk, who struck the ball through Peterson's dive into the far corner.

Soon after half-time, the Dutchman collected a throw-in from Rogers to shoot in from 30 yards and he completed his hat-trick after Peterson saved a Campbell header.

"I've heard David [Bassett] say it

was a little bit flattering," Curbishley said. "I don't think so.

We competed with them for 20, 25

minutes and then all our defensive discipline went out of the window.

It's ominous that when Forest don't play so well, they win one-nil; when they do play well, they win by five."

Forest now go to Middlesbrough on Wednesday for a true heavyweight bout, while the next game for Charlton is the visit on Friday of Swindon, who have also faltered recently: a battle between pretenders, surely, rather than contenders.

NOTTINGHAM FOREST (4-4-2): D Bassett — P Cooper, S Gemmill, I Worsley, I Robson (sub: S 90min) — J Robinson, P van Hooijdonk.

CHARLTON ATHLETIC (4-4-2): A Patterson — S Barnes, S Jones (sub: S Jones, 74), M Holmes (sub: S Newton, 81) — B Allen, C Leaburn. Referee: C Fay

next month. The idea has been put forward by a League working party dealing with restructuring the whole organisation and its ideas will be put before an extraordinary general meeting of clubs in April.

The chairman of the Football League clubs seem certain to reject a proposal to reduce their first division to 18 clubs. A plan to cut both the FA Carling Premiership and the Nationwide League first division to 18 clubs, with just two being promoted and relegated each season, will be discussed by League chairmen at a meeting in London

in April.

THE Football Association is expected to announce in the next fortnight that Umbro has retained the contract to supply the England kit. It was thought that Nike, the American company, Umbro's main rival in a fiercely contested market, was the favourite to gain promotion and even a Holland international centre forward.

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Confident Inverdale makes seamless transfer

When I spoke to Philip Bernie on Friday, the precise running order of tonight's *On Side* was looking just a little fluid. Which is exactly how Bernie, editor of John Inverdale's new sports chat show, likes it.

Out, for instance — and for the nicest of reasons — was Peter O'Sullivan, whose commentary career passes the winning post for the final time at Newbury this weekend. Seems his colleagues on *Grandstand* have something special planned. In, possibly, was Wasim Akram, with his thoughts on how to beat the West Indies — if he was in the country. But in definitely is John Fashanu, giving his first interview since being acquitted of corruption. No way

were they going to let that little exclusive get away.

Alongside Fashanu will be David Lloyd, the England cricket coach; Sally Gunnell; Kelly Holmes; Tony Banks, the Sports Minister; and anyone else who the production team thinks captures the moment. For the first programme, that meant a live link to Jacques Villeneuve, the newly-crowned Formula One champion, and last week the communication satellites were humming again, as Inverdale talked rugby union with Grant Fox in the studio and David Campese in Sydney. Tonight's target could be a little closer to home, however, if they can persuade Christian Gross to say a few words after Spurs against Crystal Palace.

A lesser interviewer might be blinded by either the stars or the technology, but not Inverdale. Once the *Twin Peaks*-style theme music has come to the end, the dry ice has cleared and he has given us a gallop through the running order, he gets polished and good-humouredly stuck in.

Was men's tennis boring, he asked Greg Rusedski? Was it good tactics, he asked Campese, for Australia to go into the match against England without a goal-kicker or anyone who could throw the ball in straight? Did you hit Nassem Hamed, he asked Chris Eubank on the first show. And no doubt he will be after Hamed's version when the boxer appears on the final show in a couple of weeks'

time. Yet, having been impressed by all that, it's an interview style that surely faces its biggest test tonight when he talks to a man who has only ever said two words about the match-fixing allegations that brought him to court. "Not guilty."

Fashanu apart, it is a technique that already seems to be working and winning over those who doubted he could make the jump from radio to

the calibre of the guests, which looks set to continue with names such as Christie, Henman, McEnroe and Gao-koine pencilled in for the next couple of weeks. Then there is the quality of the research that aims to ensure that even the most familiar interviews produce something unusual.

Some they lose ("weren't you brought up by a nun, Frankie?") Dentor: "No." but most they win, including last week's chat with Damon Hill, enlivened by the unlikely combination of vintage Bruce Forsyth and the out-takes from a pizza commercial. Mind you, the presence of Eddie Jordan, roaring into the row over Formula One and tobacco sponsorship, helped a bit too. To my mind, however, one

of the most impressive things about the show is its even-handedness. In the days when it is rare for one television channel to acknowledge that a rival broadcaster even exists, *On Side* approaches sports and guests on merit, regardless of whether the BBC has the television rights or not.

There was a wobbly moment last week when the show plugged three BBC events in under five minutes — Scotland versus Australia on *Grandstand*, the RAC rally coverage on BBC2 and *Sports Personality of the Year*, but this was against the run of play. By that time, Inverdale had already had a long chat with Rusedski, who, with the notable exception of Wimbledon, plays most of his tennis on Eurosport and

'I respect every football manager... it is an awful job, a horrible job, yet it is the best job in the world'

Aspiring to rejoin working class

David Pleat scurried through the shadows, ignoring the roar from Selhurst Park, which signalled another ominous Manchester United victory. He was insulated from the passion and pressures of the occasion, but mugged by reality the moment he switched on the car radio.

A breathless scoreflash from Hillsborough confirmed that Guy Whittingham had simultaneously completed Sheffield Wednesdays win over Arsenal. Pleat sank back into the passenger seat and crushed a boardroom pass in his right hand as he clenched his fists in a reflex action of rage and relief.

"I'm pleased for Guy," he said, breaking a brief but oppressive silence. "Nice man. Great worker. It's Sod's Law, isn't it? I could have written the script myself. That's my team. I signed every one of them. I should be there. It's too frustrating for words, awful, but I've got to forget it. It's gone."

Diverted by unseen dramas, we quickly became lost in the urban sprawl of South London. "Are you trying to save me from a miserable evening at home?" he chuckled. "I'll be dead tonight. I've not won or lost, I've no emotion to feed off. I don't know if I can live like that. I might be like a gambler who just has to have his bet."

Saturday, the thirteenth day of Pleat's latest spell as an unemployed football manager, had begun with a plea for advice from one of his former players, an

aspiring coach who had just been demoted. Pleat then opened a letter, informing him that his 12 original shares in Leicester City were worth in excess of £1,000.

The irony of an unsolicited bonus, from another club that had dispensed with him, was lost during a subsequent exchange of telephone calls with Wednesday officials. He is still fighting for compensation, due on a contract that was extended only last February. Such undignified wrangles offer a more telling insight into professional football than the manager-of-the-month trophy that adorns a display cabinet in Pleat's bungalow, on the outskirts of Luton.

The inevitability of the sack does not lessen its impact. Even Pleat, at 52 one of the most widely respected of English managers,

found his first day out of work "frightening". He drove his wife to their flat in Sheffield, only to find they did not have sufficient packing cases to move their belongings.

He then "tried to put on a reasonable face" and travelled to Hillsborough to say his farewells. His coaching staff were being retained, but were fretful. "Of course, losing your job is a blow to your ego, but it affects so many other people," Pleat reflected.

Pleat is too honest to hide the hurt. Conciliatory gestures by David Richards, the Wednesday chairman, merely irritated untreated wounds. "He said that he'd make sure that I'd be treated properly and that he wanted to be able to look me in the eye, but I've



Pleat was at Selhurst Park at the weekend, unable to hide a burning ambition to return to the game that had rejected him 13 days earlier. Photograph: Adrian Sherratt

heard all that before," Pleat said. "I call the sack the dirty deed. It's too easy to change the manager and ignore the consequences."

Pleat, a stranger in his own home, was quickly ambushed by domesticity. The kitchen was flooded because he couldn't locate the stopcock when a plumber put a nail through a water pipe. He had to buy, and learn to operate, a fax machine to cope with agents who requested his managerial CV. He discovered that he had unnecessarily been paying two sets of council tax.

The freemasonry of football management ensured that his phone rang incessantly. The prevailing mood, that he was a victim of unrealistic ambition after Wednesday's ascent to seventh place in the Premiership last season, was crystallised by a call from George Graham, the Leeds United manager.

"He told me that I'd been a bit too clever last season, that I'd probably got a few too many points," Pleat said. "But I'm glad we did well. They can't take that away from me, although they tried, because by giving me the sack they blemished my reputation."

"What hurts most is that I've been a responsible manager. So many people have said that I should have spent much more of their money, instead of planning long-term. There are those in every club who work against you behind your back, but I've never knowingly done anyone down."

The fleeting despair was dispelled by his most valued call, from Alex Ferguson, whose team triggered his dismissal by thrashing Wednesday 6-1 at Old Trafford. He woke Pleat just before eight o'clock on the morning of his return from United's European Cup

Champions' League match at Feyenoord. "You OK, pal?" went the conversation. "Ah, Alex," Pleat replied. "The six goals were just too much for them to bear."

Pleat's lined face lightened as he considered Ferguson's observational nature. Ferguson had slept for barely four hours that morning and was determined to be first to United's training ground.

"What man," Pleat said. "I pride myself on my ability to recall incidents and to sum up players, but he has a top, top brain. Just look at the character of some of those younger United players. Look at how they apply themselves. That's down to Alex. Some people might think that he cost me my job, but he's not my enemy. He's a brother, a friend."

"Managers are a band of brothers as far as I am concerned. I don't begrudge big fat Ron [Atkinson] anything. Good luck to him. Our careers have followed parallel paths. He's a character, a kindly man. I respect every manager because I know what he goes through. He's insecure, worried. It's an awful job, a horrible job, yet it is the best job in the world."

Pleat is concerned that outstanding young managers, such as Alan Buckley, of Grimsby Town, and John Ward, at Bristol City, will be frustrated by football's reluctance to gamble in the age of corporate finance. Yet such wider issues pale alongside pressing personal problems.

"You going to Spurs?" Wimbleton's car-park attendant asked, voicing the unspoken thoughts of fans who whispered "there's Pleat as he made his way to the directors' box. Pleat is, undeniably, interested in the scope of the role of director of football proposed by the Tottenham Hotspur chairman, Alan Sugar, but has yet to have any contact with him.

"I'm staying close to the phone," he said on Saturday night, when Colin Murphy called before flying to Vietnam, where he manages the national team. By that time, Pleat was cradling a glass of red wine and planning to catch the Spanish League match between Atlético Madrid and Valencia on satellite television.

"I feel helpless because I need to know what's going on, but I'm in no position to use that knowledge," he mused. "You never doubt yourself, but someone still has to give you another opportunity before you can prove anything, don't they? I know it sounds so daft, but all I want to do is work..."

Sports letters may be sent by fax to 0171-782 5211. They should include a daytime telephone number.

SPORTS LETTERS

In defence of referees

From Mr B. V. O'Toole

Sir. Before accusing Premiership referees of "incompetence, inconsistency and... bias, and suggesting that they should be charged with bringing the game into disrepute", Mr Benjamin (Sports Letters, November 17) might have paused to consider that these officials are the cream of the crop, being the elite of some 50,000 referees in England.

It takes at least 12 years' active refereeing to reach the top of the pyramid system as it is known. En route, the official must first gain 1 status, then attain club/assessors' marks placing him near the top of perhaps 100 other referees in his supply league (eg. suburban), contributory league (eg. Isthmian) and panel league (eg. Conference) before moving into the Football League and finally the Premiership. Most do not progress to the higher levels.

Like players, referees are capable of human error in the context of this fast-moving competitive game which calls for split-second judgment and decisions. They cannot be in all parts of the field of play at the same time and cannot hope to get a good view of

every incident that occurs. Absolute consistency could be achieved if referees remained perfectly positioned within five to ten yards of the ball throughout games, including for example immediately after it has been kicked 50 yards across the field, which is physically impossible; it could be achieved provided they applied the laws of the game to the letter, which would involve the abandonment of all common sense, ie, the occasional discretion not to penalise to avoid a palpably unfair result.

The worst accusation, that of bias, is unsupported by evidence or examples. If it were seriously suspected of any referee by the Premiership executive he would be immediately suspended; if it were proven before the FA he would probably never referee again.

There is an existing system for monitoring the performance of all Premiership officials; they are routinely assessed and removed from the list at the end of the season if their performances are not consistently high. Nothing extra is needed.

Yours faithfully
BARTHolemew V.
O'TOOLE

(Referee with the Amateur Football Alliance, Mincourt Chambers, Temple, London EC4.)

Unpleasant crowd behaviour at Wembley

From Mr Jonathon Mettiss

Sir, At the England v Cameroon game I was with my daughter, niece and two South African friends sitting in Block 248, which is on the halfway line just above the Royal Box.

This is one of the best areas in the ground, and I was surprised to be sitting behind a unpleasant group who were shouting: "No surrender to the IRA" periodically throughout the game. This is a well-known National Front/Combatant chant. In addition, adverse comments were made about black spectators, and they also seemed somewhat the worse for wear for drink.

I did not say anything at the time, as I was

quietly the ball goes dead, for a goal kick or throw-in for example, then play can continue. If, however, there is subsequently a goal or penalty, then the referee can call for the fourth official to judge whether the goal or penalty should stand. Similarly, if there is an appeal for a penalty, but the referee is unsighted, then he would play on until the ball goes dead, and then call for an adjudication.

Technology has progressed to such an extent that we can now, with virtual certainty, make all of these crucial decisions without error, by using the technology available. I suggest that if there is an attack where there is a close offside decision, the players should play on until the ball is out of play. The referee would acknowledge the linesman's flag, but signal that play should continue. If subse-

quently the ball goes dead, for a goal kick or throw-in for example, then play can continue. If, however, there is subsequently a goal or penalty, then the referee can call for the fourth official to judge whether the goal or penalty should stand. Similarly, if there is an appeal for a penalty, but the referee is unsighted, then he would play on until the ball goes dead, and then call for an adjudication.

Yours sincerely
JONATHON METTIS,
222 Grays Inn Rd, London WC1.

not be the subject of so much aggravation on the terraces and between the players.

Perhaps the most important consequence would be that the credibility of referees would be greatly enhanced.

Yours sincerely
PHILLIP PELLOW,
46 Courtenay Avenue,
Waterloo,
Liverpool 22.

Warren's version

From Mr Frank Warren

Sir, Your article, "Duff hears toll of final bell" (November 13), stated that Mickey Duff "blames Sky Television and Don King for his demise". King teamed up with Warren when Mike Tyson came out of

prison and told Sky that it could have Tyson if it took a package of shows that he intended to put on with Warren.

In fact, King and I signed an agreement in September 1994. Up to that time I had been regularly promoting fights on ITV, which included such fighters as Paul Holkirk, Colin McMillan, Nasem Hamed, Frank Bruno, Cristiano Espana, Derek Williams, Sean Murphy and many others. At that time ITV was not interested in Tyson, who was in prison.

Hamed, Bruno and Duke McKenzie left Duff and signed contracts with me long before my agreement with King, and ITV broadcast their fights. In April 1995, at the end of my agreement with ITV, I agreed terms with BSkyB for them to broadcast my promotions, which included fighters I had contracted with, including Bruno, Hamed, Nigel Benn, Steve Robinson and Robbie Regan. Tyson's comeback fight was not broadcast live by Sky, but was screened as a delayed transmission and via closed circuit in cinemas.

Regards,

FRANK WARREN,
Sports Network Europe,
Centurion House,
Birchley Green, Hertford.

We accept the points made by Mr Warren and are happy to put the record straight.

Tactical victory

From Mr Charlie Loretz

Sir, Neil Back claimed that the England Emerging Players were defeated by the the illegal tactics of the All Blacks.

As a sporting Kiwi I would apologise if he is correct. In our defence I point out that although we had our suspicions back here in NZ, we did not realise that the scoring of tries in the UK had actually been outlawed.

Yours faithfully,
CHARLIE LORETZ,
15 MacNay Way,
Murray Bay,
North Shore City,
Auckland, NZ.

charlie.loretz@xtra.co.nz

Happy days

From Mr D Hales

Sir, Congratulations to Tim! However, I was the first tennis player to compete in two tournaments on the same day — and win both. In August 1953, at 2pm, I won the men's final at West Worthing, used my prize-money (£5) for the rail fare to London, where, at 5pm, I won the London Parks men's final at Queen's Club — no prize-money as far as I remember. Happy days!

Yours truly,
DENNIS HALES,
Beethoven, Cheapside Lane,
Denham Village, Bucks.

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HOME	W	D	LOSS	AWAY
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3	2	1	17	9
5	2	0	18	3
4	3	1	13	11
1	0	1	10	6
4	2	0	17	5
3	4	2	11	8
4	5	0	218	8
2	5	2	12	5
2	2	2	10	14
3	1	3	8	18
2	2	2	112	57
2	2	2	5	10
7	0	2	2	6
7	2	0	6	6
11	0	2	5	5

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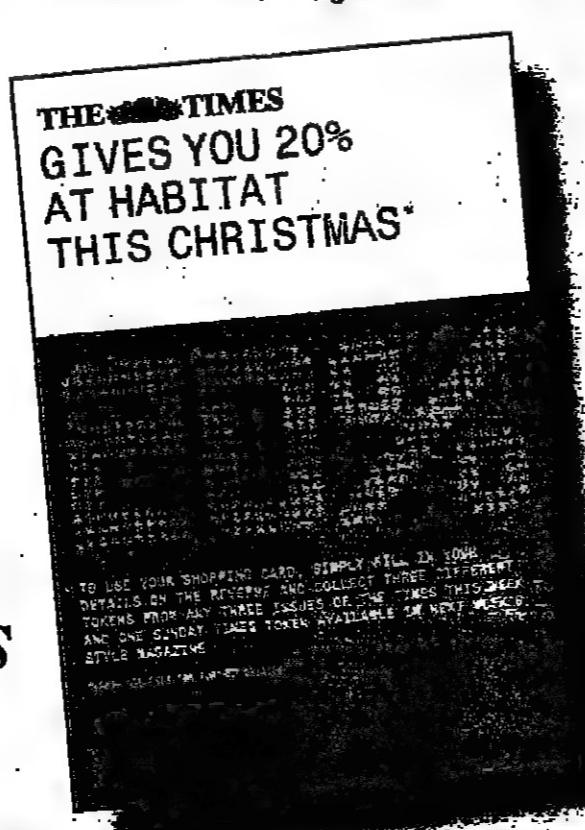
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2	2	2	10	14
3	1	3	8	18
2	2	2	112	57
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7	0	2	2	6
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11	0	2	5	5

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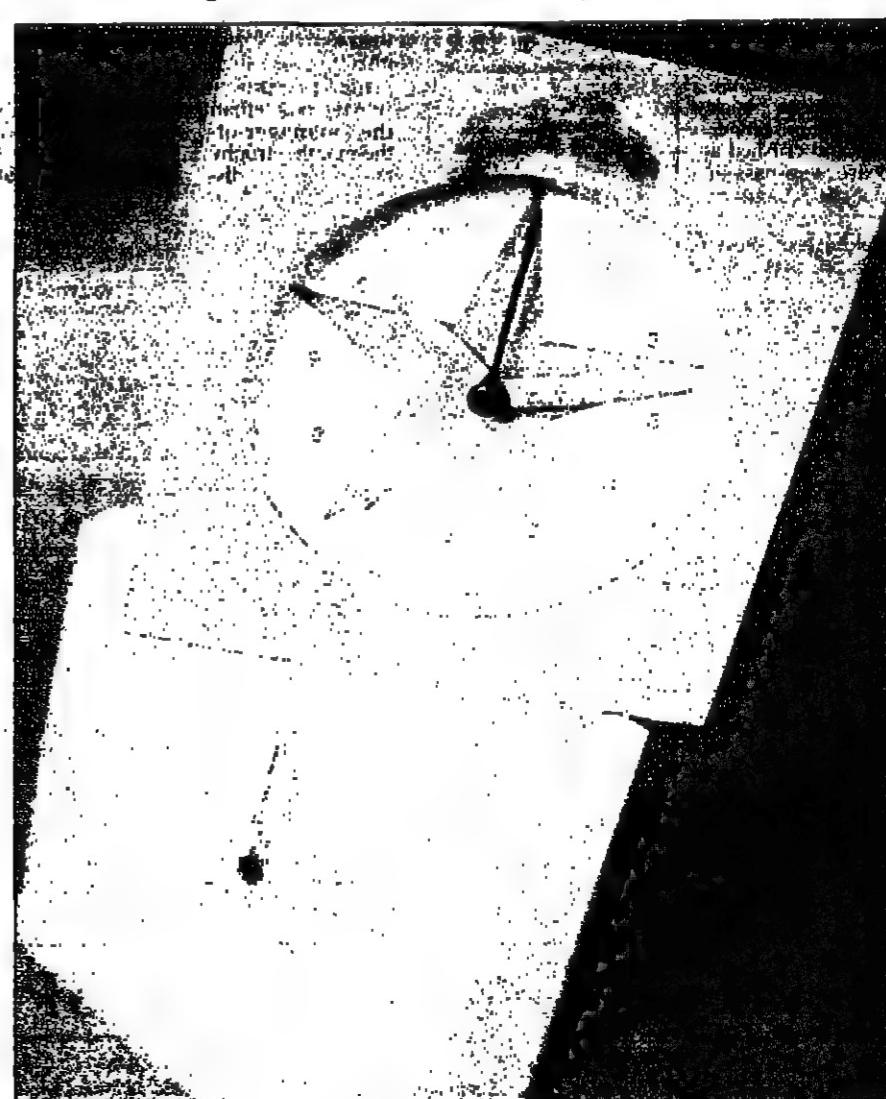
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Sport IN SCHOOL

THE TIMES MONDAY NOVEMBER 24 1997

SPORT 39

GOLF

Solitary Russian long way short of green pastures

FROM JOHN HOPKINS, GOLF CORRESPONDENT, IN SOTOGRANDE

RUSSIA. Winston Churchill once said, "Is a riddle wrapped inside a mystery inside an enigma". There are no such complexities about Alexander Strunkin, who sounds as though he should be living in a village an hour's drive from Moscow writing novels about people who would rather be somewhere else. In fact, Strunkin is Russia's first professional golfer and the first to play well enough to compete at the European qualifying school. As there are only 300 native-born Russian golfers, you might say that Strunkin is the Czar of them.

So the Russians are a rising force in professional golf in Europe, *da?* Well, actually, *niet*. Or rather not yet.

"In 20 years' time, perhaps we dominate," Denis Zherebko, 23, joked. "Not now, not yet." Despite his tender years, Zherebko is president of the newly-formed National Federation of Professional Golfers in Russia and is the country's second-best player.

Strunkin, who took up the game only eight years ago, is

frank almost to the point of fierceness about his strengths and weaknesses. "Technically, I am very bad," he said. "I have very little experience. Sometimes, I am good; sometimes, I am very bad." His play bears out this realistic assessment.

He has a strong grip, with his left hand showing more knuckles than it should, and his right hand well under-

Scores _____ 41

neath the shaft. If this sounds suspiciously like Bernhard Langer's grip, then Strunkin's pre-shot routine looks suspiciously like Langer's too.

His swing is wooden, as if composed of 28 separate movements that are not always joined together as smoothly as they should be.

Sometimes, as on the short 7th and the 9th in his third round, he hits strokes that would embarrass an amateur. Both rose no more than a couple of feet off the ground.

"Golf is a game of two

parts, mental and technical," Zherebko, who is caddying for Strunkin, said. "We have a problem in our head. We have to practise more. In practice, we are two under, then one over. In tournaments, we are ten over and then play five holes in two under. We need more tournaments, more practice, more coaching.

There is a professional at the Moscow Country Club, but he is too busy with the members to teach us."

It might have something to do with routes. Strunkin and Zherebko not only have difficulty in getting equipment; they have to depend on the generosity of the members at the Moscow Country Club, the course designed by Bobby Jones and opened three years ago, to allow them to go abroad to compete.

Though both are dressed as young golfers the world over, the sight of Strunkin's bag is revealing. Whereas those of his playing partners were enormous, the size of small trunks, Strunkin's is half their size and fraying at the edges.

By following rounds of 85 and 74 with an 80 at San Roque yesterday, Strunkin is certain to miss the 72-hole guillotine that will fall tomorrow night and eliminate all but the leading 75 players.

Strunkin began brightly enough, getting a birdie at the 1st, but was to have only one other, on the 16th. He finished with two pars, thereby dropping three shots in two holes.

At the 18th, his second shot finished in the greenside pond.

Strunkin, 23 over par, is 31 strokes behind Michael Campbell, the tournament leader, who finished his round of 67 at Guadalmina yesterday with three successive birdies.

The Russians may be coming, but they have not yet arrived. □ Andrew Coltart, Scotland, despite a final round of 76, won the Australian PGA Championship over the New South Wales Links by four shots yesterday, when only three players managed to break par in the strong northerly wind.

Coltart, 27, led by five shots entering the final round, after his 66 on Saturday, and finished with a total of 285, three under par, to pick up a prize of £38,000. It was his first win since he took the same title in 1994 and these are his only tournament victories.

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Alex Cejka and Sven Struve, of Germany, held the lead at the beginning of the final day after a combined round of 72, 72 under par.

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and opted to play on his own in the final round.

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"They said he could play if he felt well enough, but Per was a little worried and we decided it was best not to play. He started feeling dizzy after dinner and would have fainted again if he had not sat down."

Alex Cejka and Sven Struve, of Germany, held the lead at the beginning of the final day after a combined round of 72, 72 under par.

They led by two strokes from the Ireland of Padraig Harrington and Paul McGinley, whose combined score was 136. Cejka had a round of 65 while Struve shot a 67. "We both played great today," Cejka said. "I was hitting good shots to the green and making the putts."

Although still feeling ill, Johansson had a score of 74 in the second round and 71 yesterday, but then suffered a relapse on Saturday night. He lives in Marbella, but was flying back to Sweden to be with his family and to undergo further examination.

RACING: STOUTE SEALS SEASON WITH SECOND JAPAN CUP WIN

Pilsudski produces perfect finish to notable career

By OUR RACING STAFF

PILSUDSKI rounded off his glorious career in the best possible fashion with a victory in the valuable Japan Cup at Tokyo racecourse yesterday.

Right to the last, the admirable five-year-old, sent off at odds of 3.6-1, demonstrated his gameness, holding off the home-trained Air Groove by a neck after a tremendous tussle to collect the £82,096 first prize.

Pilsudski's victory was another feather in the cap of Michael Stoute, who prepared Singspiel to win the same race 12 months ago. It has sealed a wonderful year for Stoute.

RICHARD EVANS

Nap: Wandering Light

(1.20 Ludlow)

Wandering Light, who carries the famous Alice colours, won a novice chase in taking style at Worcester and top weight should not stop him following up on his handicap debut at Ludlow today.

Next Best: Castle Owen

(3.50 Ludlow)



Pilsudski, ridden by Kinane, stays on strongly to land yesterday's Japan Cup

who is the leading British trainers abroad as well as winning the domestic title.

"I am very fortunate to win with two determined and wonderful horses. They are both amazingly courageous and without that courage neither would have won," he said. "I always thought that Pilsudski had a very good chance, but I knew we were up against tough competition and I didn't underestimate his task at the end of a long season."

Racing in mid-division, slightly further back than his jockey Mick Kinane had intended, Pilsudski was travelling well, turning into the straight. He responded in great style, striking the front in the final 100 yards and galloping on well to hold Air Groove, Bubble Gum Fellow, the favourite, was a further 1½ lengths back in third.

The German raider, Catiano, lared the best of the other overseas challengers,

Ireland's Oscar Schindler was slightly disappointing and had to settle for eighth, while Luca Cumani's Mons had every chance two furlongs out but was soon beaten and came home tenth.

Kinane said: "He was cruising, turning into the straight and I knew I had the horse with finishing speed. But I thought Air Groove might beat me when she came past me four furlongs out and I had to rally Pilsudski and go at her again. It was tough."

Oscar Schindler was never in contention and his rider, Casper Asmussen, reported him to be over the top.

Mons was reluctant to enter the stalls but had every chance before fading in the closing stages. His jockey, John Reid, said: "The incident at the starting gate did not contribute to his defeat. He settled up with the pace but the difference in the ability in the straight was obvious."

The film opens with a succession of its subjects introducing themselves, privileged men counting their blessings, while

Lamouroux stable lads are

an authentic racing man in Str. Mark Prescott.

Viewers will justly critique

at the "headmaster's study"

the shortcomings of some of its officials prove too clumsy to register a palpable hit. Instead, one

sees honest, anxious people attempting a fair application of the rules of racing.

The Englishman and His Horse was the parting flourish of David Pipe, former director of public affairs at the Jockey Club. It is evident that the doors to what he calls the sport's "inner sanctum" were pried open with some trepidation and, while Portman Square is certainly prey to unnecessary paranoia about the invasion of its privacy—it is so evident why.

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Presumption irrelevant in map conveyance

Alan Wibberley Building Ltd v Insole

Before Lord Justice Simon Brown, Lord Justice Ward and Lord Justice Judge
[Judgment November 12]

The "hedge and ditch presumption" did not come into play at all where land was conveyed by reference to Ordnance Survey maps which showed boundaries in the middle of hedges.

The Court of Appeal so held in a reserved judgment by majority (Lord Justice Judge dissenting) dismissing an appeal brought by the defendant, John Graham Insole, against the decision of Mr Recorder Pardoe, QC, at Stoke on Trent County Court on November 30, 1995 when he declared the boundary between the defendant's field and that of the plaintiff, Alan Wibberley Building Ltd, as being along the centre line of a hedge dividing the two fields.

Mr Ian Foster for the defendant; Mr Charles Machin for the plaintiff.

LORD JUSTICE WARD said that the case concerned a boundary dispute which raised a point of law of some importance which could be broadly stated as: where adjoining fields were separated by a hedge and a ditch, who owned the ditch?

The defendant owned part of Home Farm in Staffordshire and the plaintiff part of Saverley Green Farm. It was not in dispute that upon removal of part of it by the defendant sometime in or after 1987 there had been a hedge between the two farms.

The judge found on the balance of probabilities that a ditch, as originally dug, ran the full length

of that hedge and continued to exist until recently. The ditch was on the plaintiff's side.

By a deed made in 1920, Home Farm was conveyed to Mr Beard. In 1975 Mr Beard sold it to Mrs Burton. That conveyance was drafted differently from the one in 1920 and made reference to the boundary being delineated by reference to Ordnance Survey maps which showed boundaries in the middle of hedges.

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The judge found on the balance of probabilities that a ditch, as originally dug, ran the full length

Corporation [1958] 1 QB 60] and found for the plaintiff.

The case was presented in the Court of Appeal on the basis that the ditch remained vested in Mr Beard and by deed dated August 9, 1996 between the executors of Mr Beard, Mrs Beard and the defendant, title to the ditch now passed to the defendant. The principal submission was that the plaintiff never owned the ditch and so could not complain of trespass upon it.

Central to the defendant's submission was the proposition that prior to the 1975 conveyance the boundary between the two farms had been fixed by operation of the hedge and ditch presumption and that, having once been fixed, it could not and did not change.

In his Lordship's judgment, the approach to the case should be as follows:

The initial question was: "What, on the true construction of the two conveyances to the parties was the boundary of the respective land?"

The plaintiff's 1984 conveyance was intended to identify the parcels to which the vendor had title but it could not be doubted that the land being conveyed extended up to its boundary with Home Farm, wherever that boundary was.

His Lordship was satisfied that the judge correctly applied the law and reached the right conclusion.

The result did not diminish the usefulness of the presumption and what might be a widely held common perception of its operation in rural communities.

His Lordship was relieved that the conclusion would have the beneficial result that maps of rural England and Wales would not have to be redrawn to show mile upon mile of ditches owned by long forgotten vendors whose solicitors chose to convey the land by reference to the Ordnance Survey map.

Turning to the defendant's

conveyance which, it was agreed for all practical purposes meant the 1975 conveyance, defined the parcels by reference to the Ordnance Survey map and so it was established beyond possibility of question what the boundary was. There was therefore no room at all for the operation of the presumption. Consequently, as the defendant now accepted, the ditch was not conveyed to him.

As the two parcels were in common ownership there once the question was decided as to what the first purchaser got under his conveyance, no difficulty arose as to what the purchaser of what could only be sensibly understood to be the remainder of the estate.

The fact that the parcels were not conveyed from a common owner did not render inoperable the rules either that the first task was to construe the respective conveyances or that the presumption had its proper place when there was no other boundary otherwise conceivable.

His Lordship was satisfied that the judge correctly applied the law and reached the right conclusion.

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LORD JUSTICE JUDGE

dissenting, said that the approach to the problem adopted in *Fisher v Winck* was not justified when the dispute did not arise out of the creation of two parcels of land out of one.

In the present case there had in law been no link between the two titles to the separate parcels of land owned by the plaintiff and the defendant. The conveyance on which the plaintiff's title depended expressly referred to the 1921 conveyance.

Despite the reference to the Ordnance Survey map for identification purposes that reference emerged from nowhere without any evidence to suggest that the vendor was entitled to sell the disputed land.

If a plaintiff believed that he would be granted a right over another's property in the future, for instance a promised legacy under a will, in a situation where the promisor still had a right to change his mind, in order to establish the requisite unconscionability for proprietary estoppel, the plaintiff had to prove that the promisor had created or encouraged a belief that he would not exercise that right and that the plaintiff had relied on that belief.

Judge Weeks, QC, sitting as a High Court judge, so held in a reserved judgment in the Chancery Division dismissing an action brought by Robert Taylor against Kenneth Clive Dickens and Marian Telford Dickens, executors of the will of Gertrude Emma May Parker for a declaration that she was entitled to the net residuary estate of Mrs Parker.

LORD JUSTICE WARD delivered a judgment concurring with Lord Justice Ward in dismissing the action.

Solicitors: Grindlays, Stoke on Trent; Challinor & Dickson, Stoke on Trent.

Foreign telephone intercept is admissible

Regina v Aulis

The terms of telephone conversations between a person in the United Kingdom and another in The Netherlands, which was intercepted under judicial authority, was admissible in evidence at the trial of the former for an offence of conspiracy with the latter.

The Court of Appeal (Lord Justice Rock, Mr Justice Buckley and Mrs Justice Hale) so held on November 7 when granting an application under section 35 of the Criminal Procedure and Investigations Act 1995 for leave to appeal against a preliminary ruling of the trial judge, but dismissing that appeal by three defendants charged with conspiracy to bring illegal immigrants into the United Kingdom.

LORD JUSTICE ROCH said that the court rejected the appellants' submissions that admission of such evidence was contrary to

the spirit of the Interception of Communications Act 1985, contrary to article 8 of the European Convention on Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms, and should have been excluded under section 78 of the Police and Criminal Evidence Act 1984 or the proceedings should have been stayed as an abuse of process.

The 1985 Act did not bar the use of material obtained by foreign telephone tapping as evidence in proceedings in this country.

In the circumstances there had been no impermissible infringement of the appellants' rights under article 8 of the Convention, nor could the judge's exercise of his discretion under section 78 of the 1984 Act to admit the evidence be criticised.

There was no abuse of process and in any event there was no authority for the proposition that the principles of abuse of process could be used to exclude evidence.

Head teacher has no duty to investigate

Director of Public Prosecutions v G (Duty to investigate)

Before Lord Justice Brock and Mr Justice Gage
[Judgment October 13]

A head teacher was not a person "charged with the duty of investigating offences or charging offenders" under section 67(6) of the Police and Criminal Evidence Act 1984 and the proceedings should have been stayed as an abuse of process.

The Queen's Bench Divisional Court so stated in the course of dismissing an appeal by the prosecution by way of case stated against the accused by Alexander Justice of C, teacher, of common assault. The Justice had found that a head teacher of a junior school was within the ambit of section 67(6) of the 1984 Act and should therefore have cautioned G prior to questioning him about a classroom incident.

Mr Michael Forster for the prosecution; Mr Justice Shale for G.

MR JUSTICE GAGE said that on March 8, 1996 G was doing supply work at a junior school. He

was teaching a class of 10 and 11 year olds. A male pupil rocked his chair backwards and forwards and was told by G on a number of occasions to stop that activity. Fearing the chair would overbalance G put his hand on the boy's neck and pulled him off the floor upon the pupil on the floor weeping.

The head teacher interviewed G and asked him to give an account of what had happened. The head teacher made jottings of what G had said and wrote those jottings up into a statement five hours later. Subsequently on April 10, 1996 an information was laid against G for assault.

The question before the court was whether a head teacher was a person "charged with the duty of investigating offences or charging offenders" under section 67(6) of the 1984 Act. A head teacher was not a person charged with investigating offences or incidents which might arise in a school. The magistrate proceeded on the wrong basis.

LORD JUSTICE BROOKE agreed that on the particular facts the head teacher was not "charged with investigating offences" under section 67(6) of the 1984 Act but that each case would depend on its particular facts.

Solicitors: Crown Prosecution Service, Buntingford; Parkinson & Co, Buntingford.

LORD JUSTICE JUDGE

stated that the court intended to do and then Mr Taylor intended to do at that event. The same thing happened in 1999. There was no offer of acceptance, no exchange of promises, no mutually binding obligations.

Second, if there was an agreement in Mrs Parker's part, it was an agreement to make a will, not an agreement not to revoke it. Mr Taylor admitted in evidence that Mrs Parker never told him she would never change her will.

The distinction was not mere logic chopping and its importance was shown by a recent case on mutual wills: *In re Goodchild* [1997] 1 WLR 1216 where Lord

THE TIMES MONDAY NOVEMBER 24 1997

Chancery Division

Court has no power to enforce promise

Taylor v Dickens and Another

Before Judge Weeks, QC
[Judgment November 12]

Where a party made a promise which subsequently broke in circumstances which could be regarded as unconscionable, unfair or morally objectionable, the court had no general equitable jurisdiction to interfere to enforce the promise.

If there was a contract Mrs Parker performed her part by making the wills in 1988 and 1991.

Third, there was, in his Lordship's judgment, no intention to make legal relations.

Fourth, section 2 of the Law of Property (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1996 on the necessity for writing in a contract for the disposition of an interest in land, had not been raised.

For all those reasons the claim in contract failed.

Mr Evans' second submission was based on proprietary estoppel. He put the case in two ways:

First, he submitted that there was a wide equitable jurisdiction to interfere in cases where, for instance a promised legacy under a will, in a situation where the testator had given evidence that he was going to be given a right over B's property if he knew that B had the right to change his mind.

In that case A also had to show that B created or encouraged a belief on A's part that B would not exercise that right. That requirement was shown by *Attorney-General of Hong Kong v Hock Choy Estate* [1987] AC 114, 134C-D.

In the present case, Mr Taylor knew that wills were revocable and that Mrs Parker could change her mind. His wife gave evidence that at least three occasions she told him not to count his chickens before they were hatched. He was confident that Mrs Parker would not revoke her will but he agreed that she never said she would not do so.

What Mr Taylor relied on were her statements in 1988 and 1991 that she was going to make a will in his favour and her subsequent three statements that she had done so. As appeared from *In re Goodchild* there was a difference between saying you would make a will and saying you would not revoke it.

Mr Parker died on November 18, 1995. Between 1988 and November 1995 Mr Taylor, who had a full-time job as a lawyer, provided care for Mrs Parker in many ways and received no remuneration for his services in the expectation that he would receive the house on Mrs Parker's death. He now claimed to be entitled to the residuary estate.

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Mr Evans put his case first in contract. His Lordship, however, found that the claim in contract failed for four reasons:

First, there was no agreement. In 1988 Mrs Parker stated what she intended to do and then Mr Taylor intended to do at that event. The same thing happened in 1999. There was no offer of acceptance, no exchange of promises, no mutually binding obligations.

Second, if there was an agreement in Mrs Parker's part, it was an agreement to make a will, not an agreement not to revoke it. Mr Taylor admitted in evidence that Mrs Parker never told him she would never change her will.

The distinction was not mere logic chopping and its importance was shown by a recent case on mutual wills: *In re Goodchild* [1997] 1 WLR 1216 where Lord

concerned access to career advancement.

Inequality in that context therefore did not fall within the scope of article 119 or of Directive 75/17.

Article 3 of Directive 75/207 prohibited discrimination on the ground of sex in the conditions, including selection criteria, for access to all jobs or posts.

The Court of Appeal (Lord Justice Staughton and Mr Justice Harman) held on November 14 in dismissing an appeal brought by the plaintiff, Michael Shearing, against the decision of Judge Havery, sitting as a judge of the Queen's Bench Division on November 21, 1996, when he upheld the decision of Deputy Master Cooper to strike out the

action against the defendants, Cliven Ltd, for want of prosecution.

MR JUSTICE HARMAN said that the fact that the defendants had not taken elaborate proofs from their potential witnesses to three years ago did not cause or contribute to delay.

The prejudice of delay caused by the dimming of memories was not caused by the act of the defendants in not proving their witnesses. There was no duty on defendants to incur large costs at an early stage of threatened action to take elaborate proofs from potential witnesses.

As an alternative, Mr Evans relied on the formulation of proprietary estoppel in *In re Basham* [1985] 1 WLR 1498, 1503. That case

No duty to incur costs

Shearing v Cliven Ltd (formerly CIN Venture Management Ltd)

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Identify objective criteria unrelated to any discrimination, on the basis of an alleged special link between length of service and acquisition of a certain level of knowledge or experience, since such a claim amounted to no more than a generalisation concerning certain categories of workers.

Although experience went hand in hand with length of service and experience enabled the worker in principle to improve performance of the tasks allocated to him, the objectivity of such a criterion depended on all the circumstances in each individual case.

If the national court found that part-time employees were generally slower than full-time ones in acquiring job-related abilities and skills, and that the competent authorities were in a position to establish that the measures chosen reflected a legitimate social policy aim, were an appropriate means of achieving that aim, and were necessary in order to do so, the mere fact that the provision affected far more women than men could not be regarded as an infringement of Directive 75/207.

It concluded that there was no special link between length of service and acquisition of a certain level of knowledge or experience, the requirement in the provision, to the effect that part-time employees had to complete a period of service more than one-third longer than that completed by a full-time official in order to have approximately the same chance of promotion, must be regarded as contrary to Directive 75/207.

The position would be different only if the discrimination between those two categories of employees were justified by factors unrelated to the employment relationship other than those already referred to.

Mrs Gerster argued that since the case concerned a system for the classification of public servants which was practically automatic, it fell within the scope of the term "pay" as used in article 119, and infringed Directive 75/207.

A rule such as that in issue, which indirectly linked to the pay

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THE TIMES Portfolio

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SECURICOR CHALLENGERS TROPHY

Sponsored section

Making a splash for glory and charity

Four days of demanding physical and mental exercise aim to promote loyalty and team spirit among employees, writes John Young

Take half a dozen wannabee managers away from their desks and their computers. Dress them in T-shirts, shorts and trainers and have them spend four days and nights scrambling up rock faces, wading rivers, canoeing down rapids, cycling over rocky screes and struggling across open moorland in darkness, trying to locate map references by torchlight in wind and rain.

And what do you get? Tomorrow's leaders of business and industry.

To many the idea may seem preposterous, reeking of Kiplingesque notions of stiff upper lips and achievement through adversity. But the success of the UK Challengers Trophy over the past decade is convincing evidence that the old ways of assessing "officer potential" still serve a purpose.

The Challengers Trophy was the idea of a Belgian businessman, Michael Malschaert, who was convinced by his experiences during the 1985 Paris-Dakar motor rally of the benefits of ordeal by endurance. The first competition was held in Spa, Belgium, and was followed by similar events in France in 1987 and The Netherlands in 1989.

But these early contests were essentially elitist, demanding virtually professional levels of fitness and commitment. In 1995 the event was held in the French Alps and required skilled mountaineers to help disabled children to climb Mont Blanc. In fundraising terms it was an imaginative project, but its relevance to management

training was questionable. In stepped Peter Bishop, a former colonel in The Queen's Regiment who, after leaving the Army, established Europac, a marketing, public relations and training company. In 1994 he was invited to become managing director of Challenger UK, with a brief to put the emphasis on teamwork and encourage mental as well as physical challenges.

Since then the competition has demonstrated its appeal both to corporate giants such as BT, Sun Life, Lloyds TSB, Smithkline Beecham, Whitbread, American Express and British Aerospace, and to the "minnows" who enjoy taking on the big boys. Through sponsorship, each team can raise money for a favoured charity or for this year's designated beneficiary, the Cancer Research Campaign.

Its purpose is to encourage high levels of fitness among staff and to foster loyalty and commitment. It aims to teach individuals how to work as a team, make the best use of resources and reach the right decisions.

The competition is spread over four days and, after a warm-up, is divided into eight or more stages, including a night exercise. The organisers aim to keep the details secret until the morning when the teams are presented with the day's route card.

Each stage is likely to include the use of boats, bicycles or ropes, but for the most part competitors have to rely on their feet, covering up to 70km (43 miles) over the four days. From a start at around 8am, a successful team can hope to be

putting its collective feet up by mid-afternoon but, if things go wrong, it may be still struggling late into the night.

The 100-strong back-up staff is equipped with a dozen four-wheel-drive vehicles, minibuses, Transit vans, crowd barriers, ropes, safety helmets, harnesses, life jackets, canoes, paddles and mountain bikes.

Accommodation is needed for up to 700 people, who also need to be supplied with three meals a day.

Although it happens to be run mainly by ex-servicemen, the competition organisers are anxious to dissociate themselves from the traditional military view that decisions are best left to officers, while

other ranks are required simply to do as they are told.

Participation is essentially a co-operative, democratic venture, in which all team members are expected to pull together.

Experience in more enlightened offices and factories has consistently shown that this is by far the best way to get the most out of people, and to avoid boredom and resentment on the part of those who feel they have not been given any responsibility. Factory workers organised into decision-making teams have shown notable increases in productivity.

"I think the product is about right, but I also hope we can



Best foot forward: competitors take up the challenge

COMPETE WITH EUROPE'S BIGGEST COMPANIES. (YOU MAY REMOVE YOUR JACKET AND TIE)



The Securicor Challengers Trophy will be no picnic.

A maximum of 100 male, female and mixed teams from many of Europe's blue-chip companies will don running suits and trainers to go head-to-head over three days.

Names like American Express, BP Oil, Lloyds TSB, MoD, Orange, Sun Life Assurance and Whitbread will be in the thick of things.

Besides the opposition, each team will be facing a series of energy-sapping, mind-stretching outdoor challenges, using maps, compasses, mountain bikes, ropes, canoes and their wits.

To qualify for entry each team member must have a

commitment to teamwork, communication, leadership and problem-solving. (A sense of humour also helps!) And when they eventually finish they will be better equipped to contribute to their company, big or small. The Securicor

Challengers Trophy will take place between 4th and 6th June 1998 at Barton Hall near

Dartmoor. If you are interested to find out more, you can start by rolling up your sleeves and calling our number.



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Dartmoor here we come

Philip Pearce, the man responsible for setting the course for the Securicor Challengers Trophy, is brimming with enthusiasm for the 1998 choice of venue — Dartmoor.

"It will give us much greater scope because of its sheer size and the variety of terrain," he says. "I hope too that we will get permission to use other parts of Devon, so that, for the first time for many years, we will be able to incorporate beaches, cliffs and estuaries."

The Ribble Valley in Lancashire, where we staged this year's competition, was splendid, but was a much more homogeneous area. Devon and Dartmoor should provide much more variety and it should be great fun."

Fun is certainly the keynote of the centre from which next year's competition will be staged. Barton Hall, near Torquay, is a former country house, now surrounded by chalets in the grounds and run by the Pontins Group as a holiday and leisure complex.

Mr Pearce says that it will be January at the earliest before he is able to plan the course in any sort of detail. But, like Peter Bishop, he is keen to put more emphasis on the mental aspects of the challenge.

"Competitors will not simply be required to run from one place to another," he says. "They will have to assess the best routes with choice of checkpoints, each scoring different values, and will have to work out which ones to go for. It's a bit like calculating profit and loss in business."

H e adds: "Schemes in other countries have required trained athletes. For this competition people simply have to be prepared to train, say, three evenings a week and occasional weekends. That way they should be fit enough."

Mr Bishop describes Dartmoor as the most challenging terrain yet faced: "Two years ago we went to the Peak District, but our access was confined by the park authorities. Dartmoor is also a National Park, but I am assured we will be free to roam off the beaten track."

Barton Hall will certainly be more luxurious than the stable block in Chepstow which served as headquarters for one of the earlier events. "It was May and it poured with rain and the buildings were flooded," he recalls.

Barton Hall has the additional advantage that teams will have to be bussed out each morning and won't be able to reconnoitre the terrain in advance. So there will always be an element of surprise, which should make for fairer competition."

جذب من الأداء

1997 Results Table
Top 50 Places

1 ORANGE	26 CABLE & WIRELESS
2 SEDGWICK	27 AMERICAN EXPRESS
3 SUN LIFE ASSURANCE	28 LOMBARD BUSINESS FINANCE
4 SHORTS MISSILE SYSTEMS	29 ORANGE
5 BOWRING	30 BACON & WOODROW
6 LLOYDS TSB	31 CANCER RESEARCH CAMPAIGN
7 BT	32 4TE CONSULTING
8 CARDIFF COUNTY COUNCIL	33 SUN LIFE ASSURANCE
9 ICL SORBUS	34 SEDGWICK
10 SMITHKLINE BEECHAM	35 GCHQ
11 BT	36 MoD
12 LILLY	37 BRITANNIA REFINED METALS
13 NORTHUMBRIAN WATER	38 BOWRING
14 AMERICAN EXPRESS	39 LLOYDS TSB
15 TETRA PAK	40 AMERICAN EXPRESS
16 DEK PRINTING MACHINES	41 EQUANT
17 ASE CONSULTING	42 LLOYDS TSB
18 WHITBREAD INNS	43 LLOYDS TSB
19 MITEL	44 SAVE & PROSPER
20 MoD	45 BP OIL
21 ITSA	46 DUDLEY BOWER FACILITIES
22 DISTA PRODUCTS	47 CANCER RESEARCH CAMPAIGN
23 AVON COSMETICS LTD	48 ORANGE
24 3I	49 BRITISH AEROSPACE
25 ELANCO	50 RS COMPONENTS





SECURICOR CHALLENGERS TROPHY

Sponsored section

A fine balance of brawn and brainpower

Rodney Hobson
hears from last
year's winners
what it takes
to triumph



On target: a member of the Orange team tees off in the night exercise

If the future is Orange, then that is because of the lessons learnt in the past. At the third attempt, the telecoms group has won the Challengers Trophy.

Two years ago, a couple of employees from a military background suggested putting in a team. Mark Evans, project office manager, explains: "They were interested in taking part in an event that would stretch them physically, just like exercises in the Forces. We had no idea what the Challengers Trophy was going to be like and we put in a very physical team. We did not know that you needed team members with mental agility too."

Lacking the balance that is needed to become serious contenders, Orange's initial entry came 35th. However, the members were far from daunted. They enjoyed the event so much that the following year Orange entered three teams: one came first in the mixed event and another was fourth. Spurred on, the group again raised three teams and this year one of them snatched the title by just a few seconds after four days of intense competition.

Mr Evans says: "The euphoria of this year's event has given the company a fresh impetus. Everyone knows this is something we are going to keep on doing and that we are well established as contenders. It fits in with the company being like a family. It gives the staff a feeling of togetherness."

He believes that, both internally and dealing with other

"You learn to question what

companies, the networking aspect of the competition is important. People in different departments who do not normally work together learn who in the company can get things done if a problem arises. Contacts are also forged with potential customers and suppliers.

"You learn to question what

works well and why. That helps people to understand how to get on together," Mr Evans says.

CT Bowring, now part of Marsh McLennan international insurance group, has been a winner for three years in a row. Two years ago the company carried off the women's trophy and last year it was the overall winner, with the women's team second in its section. This time two teams were entered and the women triumphed again.

Bowring has a reputation for offering a wide range of social activities for its employees. Clubs include chess, badminton, walking and yachting, so it is hardly surprising that competition for the women's team is keen.

Victoria Cook, team captain, says: "We try to keep fit and we always start with many more people than we need. Over a period of time some drop out, either through injury or because of other commitments. This event does take a lot of time and commitment. We get down to a hard core from which we make our final selection."

The team members come from a cross-section of departments — this year no two members came from the same part of the operation. They included a broker, a director and an accountant. They also represented a cross-section of natural abilities.

Miss Cook stresses the importance of teamwork in the challenge. She says: "With teams of six and four taking part in each event, those who



Bridge building: working small miracles with pipe cleaners and a bit of ingenuity

are not involved in a particular event have to back up the others. They have to run round fetching and carrying."

Positions in the office count for nothing. In the final analysis, Miss Cook must take the ultimate decision although she gets the whole team to try to agree on tactics. Having people from different departments probably helps.

For others, though, there is the anguish of what might have been. It is hard not to sympathise with Sun Life, the insurance group that went into the penultimate round as the leader. The crucial challenge

was to build a bridge with materials such as pipe cleaners that would hold a certain weight.

Wayne Lewis, Sun Life team captain and training co-ordinator, explains what went wrong: "The company puts a lot of effort into this event and we trained for four or five months. We hoped to consolidate our lead in the bridge building so we were cautious, but with hindsight we did not set our sights high enough.

"We did not realise what

you could do with the items we had. Unfortunately the time bonus awarded for this section was out of proportion to the other challenges. It was possible to pick up a three or four-hour bonus time."

Although they realised they were now too far behind to have a realistic chance of winning, Sun Life went into the last round determined to prove a point and won it to secure third place.

They have previously finished first and second. Mr Lewis says: "We will be back next year. We are already looking for volunteers."

Why Securicor stepped in to take the baton

We like the fact that the challenge is linked to fundraising, says sponsor

The Challengers Trophy has a new sponsor in Securicor, writes Rodney Hobson. Begun in 1986, it found a sponsor in 1995 when Mitel signed a three-year deal. Now the baton for the next three years has been passed to the security and mobile telephone group.

Challenger UK prefers to keep just one main sponsor, whose company name can be included in the title of the trophy. But it also has lesser sponsors, such as suppliers of refreshments and equipment.

Rod Alexander, the director of Challenger Marketing UK, says: "Mitel loved their time with us. It was a superb sponsorship for them, but they had a change of personnel and decided not to renew the contract."

According to Mr Alexander, several companies were showing an interest in replacing Mitel — a Canadian computerised switchboard maker — but Securicor was the obvious choice.

"Challenger had already been running in-house events for Securicor for some time, so they knew us," says Mr Alexander. "Their companies are household names, and it is household names that enter the challenge."

Securicor has run a similar type of competition in-house for nine years. Seven of its events were held in the Lake District, but those in the past two years took place in Surrey.

Nigel Griffiths, Securicor's

group legal director, says: "Two years ago, Challenger helped us to organise the weekend event held at Reigate and Redhill. We were very impressed with the way they ran things and the tasks they set. When they asked to talk to us about sponsoring the Challengers Trophy, we were equally impressed with what they had to say."

"Life is very competitive and is all about teamwork, and that is what the Challengers Trophy is all about. It reflects the physical and mental effort that goes into a business. And most importantly, it is great fun. We like the fact that it is linked to a major fundraising exercise. If you can do something for the community, you should do."

As the new sponsor, Securicor expects to field at least two teams next year. With 25,000 employees nationwide, it should have little difficulty in finding a dozen suitable candidates.

The problem will be getting team members together from so many locations. One possibility is play-off between Securicor teams from different parts of the business for the honour of representing the group.

The presence of Securicor teams will add a little extra spice to next year's tussle. Securicor owns 40 per cent of Cellnet, the mobile telephone company that is being challenged in the marketplace by Orange, winner of this year's Challengers Trophy.



Griffiths: impressed

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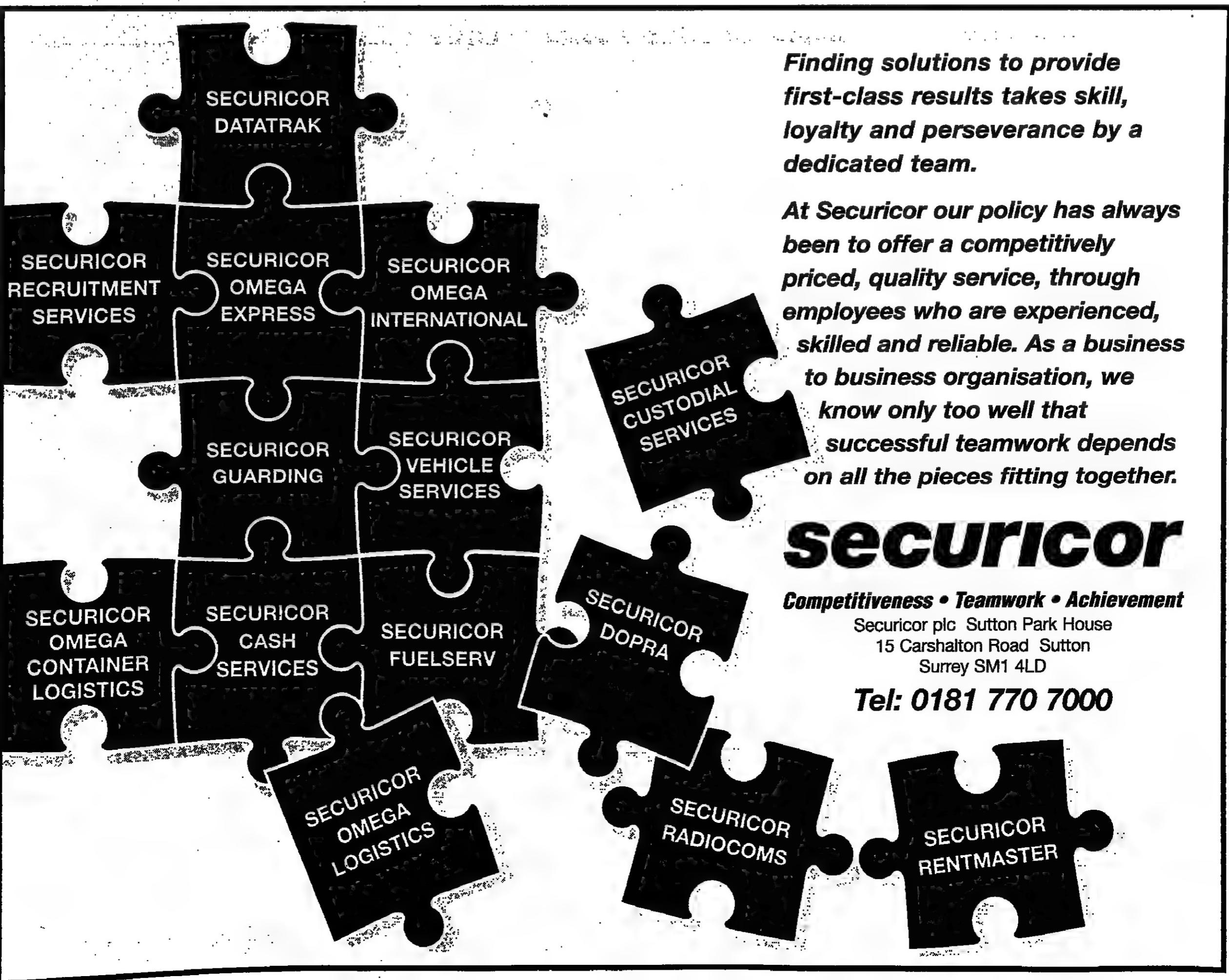
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Girl power unable to spice up EMI profit



Colin Southgate, Jim Fife and the Spice Girls will be in the spotlight when EMI reports

EMI GROUP: Not even the Spice Girls will be enough to ginger up half-year figures due out tomorrow at EMI, where Sir Colin Southgate is chairman and Jim Fife is chief executive. In fact, the all-girl group may be having a detrimental effect on future earnings, judging by the critics' verdict on *SpiceWorld*, their first film, and the poor showing of their latest album in the US charts.

Brokers are forecasting a downturn in pre-tax profits from £125 million to £71 million, with earnings per share dropping about 2p to 5.5p. This is almost entirely because of the sluggishness of the music market generally and a slow release schedule. The strong pound will also have taken its toll, with a £20 million hit expected.

Apart from the Spice Girls, there has also been a muted response to albums from Janet Jackson and The Rolling Stones. New releases should accelerate in the second half but brokers are not over-optimistic about EMI's ability to make up the lost ground. However, the dividend should be raised from 4p to 5.4p, or 13 per cent.

RBS: Royal Bank of Scotland's full-year results on

Thursday are the first to be published by one of the high street clearing banks and should reveal a reasonable performance. NatWest Markets expects pre-tax profits of £764 million, compared with £695 million last time, an increase of 10 per cent. But the impact of an increased tax charge should see earnings per share decline 4 per cent from 54.1p to 52p.

Underlying pre-tax profits should be 14 per cent higher, at 732 million, reflecting strong growth in pre-provision profits. However, this will be offset to a certain extent by an increase in bad-debt provisions. Headline profit growth will reflect higher disposal gains and a £30 million hit from Budget tax changes.

UK banking will see profits rise £100 million to £641 million, but there is unlikely to be any recovery in Direct Line, the once high-flying insurance business. The payout should rise 13 per cent to 21p.

TATE & LYLE: The City will be hoping for signs of a recovery in the group's fortunes when it unveils final results on Wednesday.

Brokers are forecasting a drop in pre-tax profits from £210.4 million to between £223 million and £235 million. This

will be struck before an exceptional charge of £90 million, relating to asset write-downs, cost-base reductions and currency and start-up costs. The group will also have to take a £10 million trading loss on the chin after an attempted arbitrage operation in the Russian sugar market went badly wrong. Earnings per share will have declined by almost 60 per cent, to 16p. The dividend is likely to be pegged at 17p.

NATIONAL GRID: All eyes will be focused on Energis, the group's telecom arm, which is due to be floated before the year end, when half-year figures are released tomorrow. They are likely to reflect a sharp downturn in profitability. NatWest Markets, the broker, is forecasting a drop in profits at the pre-tax level, from £293 million to between £217 million and £225 million, with earnings per share dropping from 12.2p to 9.4p.

Fortunately, this setback is unlikely to affect the dividend, which is likely to go up about 8 per cent from 4.45p to 4.8p.

SEVERN TRENT: Attempts

at plugging leaks and increased capital expenditure will have taken their toll of half-year results due out tomorrow. Pre-tax profits are expected to come in about £7 million lower, at £195 million, although earnings per share should show a small improvement, up from 47.4p to 48.3p.

The regulated water business will have produced an otherwise solid performance. The payout will grow by around 12 per cent to 11.75p.

YORKSHIRE WATER: A flat performance is envisaged when interim figures are reported on Thursday. Brokers are looking for pre-tax profits virtually static, at £109 million, with earnings per share also unchanged, at 25p. But the group's underlying performance should please the City.

Profits will have been eroded by the revenue fine imposed by the industry regulator, while balance sheet restructuring will have resulted in increased financing costs. Meanwhile, shareholders can look forward to a 20 per cent rise in the dividend after the group's promise to maintain the cost of the interim payout in real terms even though the number of shares in issue has been reduced 10 per cent.

THORN: Interim results tomorrow should indicate to brokers whether they need to downgrade their forecasts for the full year. None of them are optimistic enough to expect a positive outcome. It has been known for some time that sales have been in decline with the first quarter down 8.5 per cent and a 12.4 per cent reduction anticipated for the first six months as a whole.

As a result, pre-tax profits are expected to come in at about £60 million (£79.3 million). Earnings per share are

also expected to have fallen 24 per cent to 10.6p. The dividend is most likely to be pegged at 13.3p.

SOUTHERN ELECTRIC: Further cost-cutting at its core distribution business should have provided the base for improved efficiency when the group reports interim figures on Wednesday.

But rising interest charges could result in a small decline in profitability. At the pre-tax level estimates range from £103 million to £124 million, compared with £112.2 million last time, while earnings per share decline 6 per cent to 17.5p on the back of an increased tax charge. But this is unlikely to affect the dividend, which is expected to grow 11 per cent to 7.8p.

UNITED UTILITIES: What plans the new management has for the future will be top of the agenda when half-year figures are published on Thursday. Pre-tax profits have been pencilled in at around £230 million (£224 million). Some estimates are as high as £240 million. Earnings per share are likely to be unchanged at 39.8p.

Much attention will be paid to future dividend policy, with the rate of growth in real terms expected to fall from 11 per cent to between 6 per cent and 8 per cent. The payout this time grows from 12p to 13p.

MICHAEL CLARK

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Yorkshire Water to back 'tree' generator

By JASON NISSE

WORK is to begin in the new year on a £28 million project backed by Yorkshire Water, to generate electricity from the branches of fast-growing willow trees.

The ecologically friendly scheme, at Eggleston, north Yorkshire, is expected to be able to generate up to 10 megawatts of electricity — enough to supply 20,000 homes — by

About 800 acres of wood-

land is being planted in north Yorkshire to supply fuel for the generator. These forests will largely be made up of fast-growing willow trees which will be pruned back at the end of each season to provide wood for the plant.

Electricity will be produced in a process called gasification. The wood is placed in glass-lined metal cylinders and heated to temperatures as high as 900C, so turning it into gas to power turbines that generate electricity.

This process produces more electricity more efficiently than burning the wood," said Keith Pitcher, project director for Yorkshire Water.

Mr Pitcher said that the design of the plant had been agreed and letters of intent had been sent out to contractors. Work is due to start as soon as the weather allows in the early part of the new year.

The process used in the plant can be adapted for other fuels, such as animal and human faeces, though this project does not have approval from the European Commission to use those fuels.

wrote off £30 million to withdraw from contracting. However, when it bought Raine for £84 million this year the deal brought with it Hall & Tawse, a contractor operating in the Midlands and the North.

Oliver Whitehead, chief executive of McAlpine, said yesterday: "We could not admit we were going to sell Hall & Tawse, but that has always been our plan."

ALFRED McALPINE, the builder, will today announce the £20 million sale of Hall & Tawse, its regional contracting business, to Mansell (Jason Nisse writes).

The deal means that McAlpine has now fully withdrawn from general contracting and will concentrate on housebuilding, civil engineering and special projects.

This objective was set out last year when McAlpine



Resourceful: Lawrence Steinberg, left, finance director of Tetra, with Bob Critchlow

Alfred McAlpine sells Hall & Tawse

TETRA, the company that designs and supplies software for enterprise resource planning, will this week float on the Stock Exchange through the placing of 12.3 million shares at 160p each, valuing the company at £40.3 million (Chris Ayres writes).

Dealing in Tetra's shares is expected to begin on Thurs-

day, and the placing has been underwritten by HSBC Investment Bank, which is acting as sponsor and broker.

Bob Critchlow, the company's chief executive, said: "We are delighted by the response we have received from institutions and the enthusiasm we have seen for Tetra and its products, especially given the volatility of the markets over the past few weeks."

Tetra's products are sold and distributed in over 20 countries and used in more than 50. Its customers include DHL, Glaxo, Wellcome, Motorola, Spillers and US Filter. The market for enterprise resource planning is expected to be worth \$6.3 billion by 2000.

Chancellor's cue to flesh out the fine words of July

For some reason, British Budgets always conjure up the colour red. Perhaps it is the Chancellor's red box or the fact that the accompanying Budget document, normally in a red cover, is known as the Red Book. Or is it the association with red ink? Whatever the answer, tomorrow the Chancellor will deliver the first "Green Budget". What on earth will he say?

Before any readers with strong environmentalist sympathies get excited, I should emphasise that you should not anticipate a string of environment-friendly measures, although he may well discuss "green" taxes as part of his overall tax review.

Green is rather meant to denote the status of this Budget as a discussion document. I should also emphasise that "Green Budget" is the unofficial title. The Treasury has apparently decided to call it the Pre-Budget Report.

As such, it fills the slot previously occupied by the old Autumn Statement that Chancellors used to deliver in November to tide them over until March. Doubtless tomorrow's statement will cover much of the same ground. Accordingly, we should prepare for another of those fascinating accounts of the state of the economy, spiced with comments that laud the contribution of the current Government and denigrate the record of the previous one, as well as a revised economic forecast, and a progress report on the state of the public finances.

But we should also expect a good deal more. The original idea of a "Green Budget" was to lay down possible measures to be taken in the real thing, so that a period of debate and discussion could clarify the issues and improve the detail. In practice, this was always going to be difficult to pull off. Imagine that the Green Budget proposed a particular tax change to take effect next March. Seeing that it was on the cards, people would rush to get transactions done to preempt the impending change. It would be possible to prevent this by announcing that any measures that were included in the March Budget would be backdated to the "Green Budget" date in November. But retrospective taxation is unfair and politically unsatisfactory.

Accordingly, it comes as no surprise that the jungle drums are telling us to expect no tax changes to be implemented tomorrow, and no backdating to November 25 of any measures announced in March. So tomorrow's event will surely stop well short of the "draft Budget" originally mooted. Nevertheless, we are told that the Chancellor hopes that it will spark a national debate. Above and beyond the usual seasonal fare, it will probably include discussion of reform of the welfare state and of the idea of enshrining in legislation a code of fiscal stability.

In his July Budget, Mr Brown said: "My goal is therefore to ease inflationary pressures without damage to industrial and exporting prospects and to do so in a way that is consistent with our long-term objective of high and stable growth and employment." Fine words. Tomorrow he should make it clear that he intends to follow precisely this path.

Answers from page 33

APPENPINSCHER

(a) A small breed of dog, related to the Brussels griffon. From the German *affe* a monkey or ape + *pinscher* a terrier. "The Appenpinscher is an alert, intelligent little dog of some 7lb to 8lb in weight. It has a round skull well covered with stiff hair. The colour is often a black mask."

ENORMITY

(c) Monstrous wickedness. From the Latin *e norma* out of the square or pattern. *Enormity* (great wickedness) has drifted so far apart from *enormous* (very large) that the use of either in connection with the limited sense of the other is unavoidable. "Enormous sin" and "The impression of enormity produced by the building" are both etymologically possible expressions. But the use of the first lays one open to suspicion of pedantry, and of the second to suspicion of ignorance.

DESAI: (b) A native Indian revenue official or petty chief, under the British Raj. An Indian historical word. From the Marathi *desai*.

DVORNIK

(a) A native porter. The Russian word, from Russian *dvor* a courtyard. Dvorniks play an even greater snapper's part in Moscow than in Paris. Hugh Walpole, *Sacred City*, 1919: "I said good-night to the Dvornik. I could hear their laughter at the bottom of the stairs for the Dvornik to let me out."

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Austria Sch	21.78	20.10		Netherlands Gld	0.51	0.265
Bahrain D	20.03	20.09		New Zealand \$	2.15	2.81
Canada \$	2.516	2.509		Portugal Esc	312.55	11.65
Cyprus Cyp	0.807	0.806		S Africa Rd	—	7.50
Denmark Kr	11.82	10.83		Spain Pts	220.20	14.50
Egypt £	10.34	9.55		Sweden Kr	13.03	12.55
France Fr	5.11	5.07		Switzerland Fr	1.75	2.14
Germany DM	4.98	4.49		Turkey Lira	322.00	309.445
Hong Kong \$	1.21	1.01		USA \$	1.78	1.861
Iceland Is	—	—				
Ireland Pt	1.19	1.10				
Israel She	0.34	0.29				
Italy Lira	206.43	206.20				
Japan Yen	—	—				

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Investors rebel at Walker Wingsail

Monday November 24

THE TIMES MONDAY NOVEMBER 24 1997

BUSINESS NEWS 49

Investors to rebel at Walker Wingsail

By PAUL DURMAN

SHAREHOLDERS in Walker Wingsail Systems, who have ploughed £1 million into the company, will next week try to oust the founder of the controversial group, which makes yachts with metal sails.

John Walker has spent half a lifetime trying to make a business out of his revolutionary idea for boats with metal sails. But after years of missed forecasts, some of his previously indulgent shareholders have finally lost patience. They are exasperated with Mr Walker's repeated requests for more money and with the numerous flaws that they allege exist with the only two boats that his Plymouth company has ever completed.

They say that the customers for one of the boats, Rodney and Maria George, have refused to accept delivery.

Charles Howeson, a retired Royal Navy commander, was approached to take over as chairman two months ago. He came to believe "the company was fast approaching a position where it would be trading insolvently". Walker Wingsail is currently trying to raise a further £1.5 million from its estimated 6,500 shareholders.

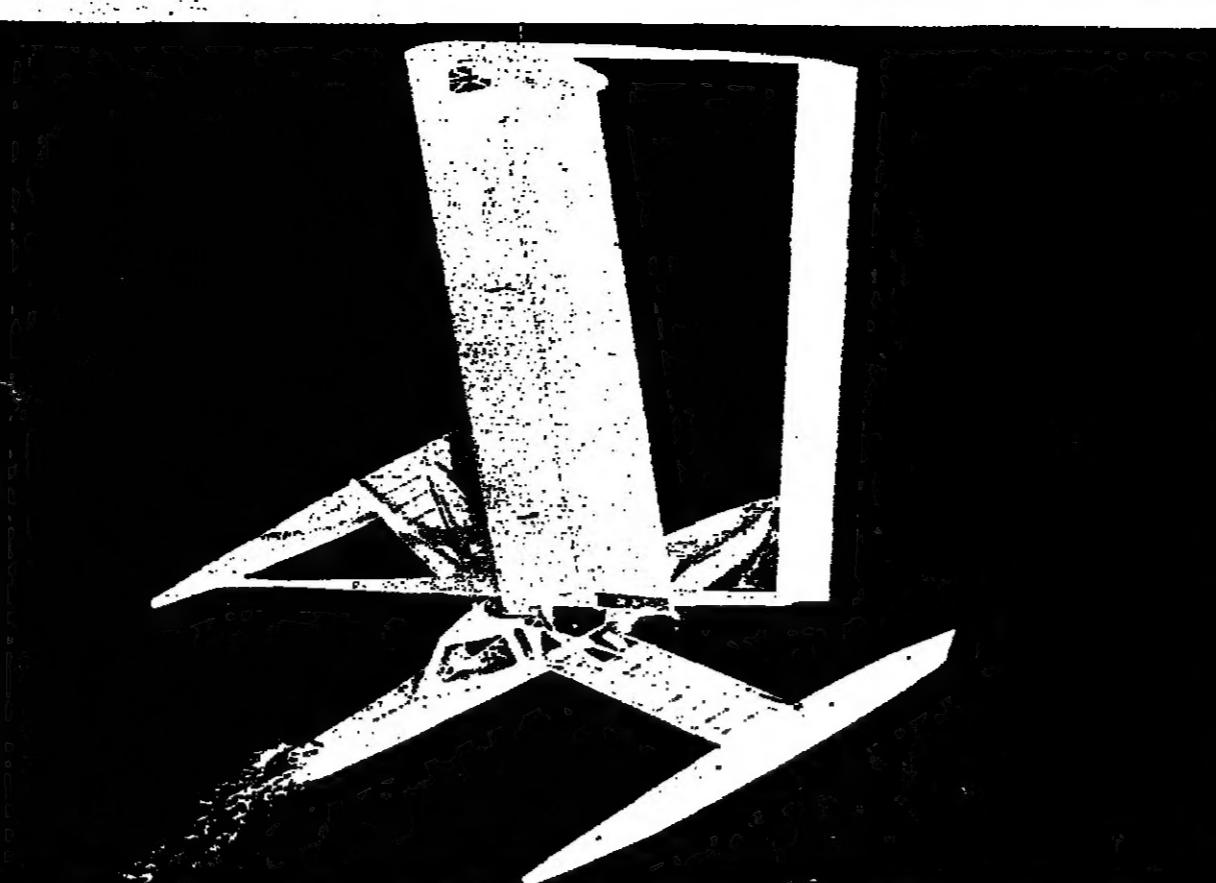
Mr Walker also faces legal threats from the US. Wingsail USA bought the first of Walker Wingsail's Zefyr 43s with the intention of acting as the US distributor for the boats. But the owner of Wingsail USA is now seeking damages of more than £1 million, claiming that Mr Walker arbitrarily cancelled the distribution deal.

The shareholder group is

urging fellow investors not to adopt Walker Wingsail's accounts at the annual meeting next Saturday. In a circular, the group says: "We have to conclude that the illustrative projections for the next 12 months and for the next five years are no more believable than any others which have been made in the past. We do not believe these forecasts, and we no longer have confidence in any statements issued by the current management."

Despite the years of disappointments, shareholders still believe in the wingsail technology — aircraft-style wings, mounted vertically and controlled by computer, and said to make sailing much easier.

The activist group wants to



Rebel shareholders believe in the wingsail technology but want new management to cut costs and increase revenues

Battle over BTR unit takes shape

By CHRIS AYRES

BTR, the engineering conglomerate undergoing a radical disposal programme, is said to be in negotiations with Kohlberg Kravis Roberts, the American buyout firm to sell its international packaging operations.

CVC Capital Partners, the UK venture capital buyer, is also believed to be interested in the division, which includes brand names such as Formica and Rockware. Both CVC and KKR are expected to put up more money. Jim Lancaster, an adviser to the shareholder group, believes that Mr Walker's arbitrary cancellation of the distribution deal

is highly profitable and have

margins of more than 20 per cent. Brokers have valued the division at £2.7 billion, although some analysts believe it could sell for more than £3 billion. Goldman Sachs, the investment bank, is handling the sale for BTR, which is part of a programme designed to raise more than £3.5 billion.

This month, as part of its restructuring, BTR sold most of its polymers division for £515 million, in the second largest UK management buyout of 1997. The 53 businesses were sold in a buyout vehicle called UniPoly, funded by Legal & General Ventures and Fuji Bank of Japan.

Penny share firm fined by Fimbra

By GAVIN LUMSDEN

A DEALER in the penny share market has been fined a record £350,000 and ordered to pay £69,175 costs by a City regulator.

The Financial Intermediaries Managers and Brokers Association (Fimbra) said it

had terminated London Corporate Securities' membership for failing to observe high standards of integrity and fair dealing.

Fimbra said LCS lacked the grounds for believing its recommendations were either suitable or of benefit to its clients and had not provided an adequate explanation of the risks involved in penny

shares. The company had also failed to obtain signed agreements before entering into transactions where there was clear conflict of interest and had not effectively monitored its staff.

This is the fourth fine in a year that Fimbra has levied on rogue penny share traders. In April and July it fined City Equities and Park Equities £20,000 each.

Earlier Danesfield Securities had to pay £75,000. Four other penny dealers have yet to be admitted to the Personal Investment Authority, the regulator which has largely succeeded Fimbra.

Midland staff vote on strike

MIDLAND BANK staff begin voting today on whether to strike in protest at the high street bank's decision to stay open on the afternoon of Christmas Eve (Adam Jones writes).

About 20,000 members of the Biffu finance union are being balloted on the proposal to strike on Christmas Eve. Voting continues until December 11 and the result will be announced the next day.

At Barclays Bank, members of Bifu and Unifil, another union, are already due to strike on Christmas Eve in protest over a new performance pay system.

LONDON INVESTMENT MARKET											
1997	High	Low	Mid cap	Price	Wkly +/−	%	TM	Wkly	%	PE	
1257	1007	1007	12.50 AIA Systems	12.25	−	−1.1	8.1	0.8	0.0	—	
1258	1050	1050	10.50 AMG Int'l Plc	10.25	−	−2.3	1.5	0.0	0.0	—	
1259	945	945	9.25 Alcatel Broadband	9.25	−	−2.3	2.2	0.0	0.0	—	
1260	957	957	9.57 Alcatel Tele. Plc	9.57	−	−2.3	3.2	0.0	0.0	—	
1261	288	288	28.80 Airtel Satcom	28.80	−	−4.4	10.7	0.0	0.0	—	
1262	925	925	9.25 Airtel Gold	9.25	+	+1.1	9.2	0.0	0.0	—	
1263	725	725	7.25 Airtel Attach	7.25	−	−2.7	12.3	0.0	0.0	—	
1264	725	725	7.25 Airtel Attach & Rd	7.25	−	−2.7	12.3	0.0	0.0	—	
1265	525	525	5.25 Allegro	5.25	−	−2.7	12.3	0.0	0.0	—	
1266	725	725	7.25 Angle-Watch	7.25	−	−2.7	12.3	0.0	0.0	—	
1267	525	525	5.25 Anite Int'l Plc	5.25	−	−2.7	12.3	0.0	0.0	—	
1268	1015	1015	10.15 Antec Plc	10.15	−	−2.7	12.3	0.0	0.0	—	
1269	655	655	6.55 Antekor	6.55	−	−2.7	12.3	0.0	0.0	—	
1270	1000	1000	10.00 Antech	10.00	−	−2.7	12.3	0.0	0.0	—	
1271	655	655	6.55 Antech	6.55	−	−2.7	12.3	0.0	0.0	—	
1272	1000	1000	10.00 Antech	10.00	−	−2.7	12.3	0.0	0.0	—	
1273	655	655	6.55 Antech	6.55	−	−2.7	12.3	0.0	0.0	—	
1274	1000	1000	10.00 Antech	10.00	−	−2.7	12.3	0.0	0.0	—	
1275	655	655	6.55 Antech	6.55	−	−2.7	12.3	0.0	0.0	—	
1276	1000	1000	10.00 Antech	10.00	−	−2.7	12.3	0.0	0.0	—	
1277	655	655	6.55 Antech	6.55	−	−2.7	12.3	0.0	0.0	—	
1278	1000	1000	10.00 Antech	10.00	−	−2.7	12.3	0.0	0.0	—	
1279	655	655	6.55 Antech	6.55	−	−2.7	12.3	0.0	0.0	—	
1280	1000	1000	10.00 Antech	10.00	−	−2.7	12.3	0.0	0.0	—	
1281	655	655	6.55 Antech	6.55	−	−2.7	12.3	0.0	0.0	—	
1282	1000	1000	10.00 Antech	10.00	−	−2.7	12.3	0.0	0.0	—	
1283	655	655	6.55 Antech	6.55	−	−2.7	12.3	0.0	0.0	—	
1284	1000	1000	10.00 Antech	10.00	−	−2.7	12.3	0.0	0.0	—	
1285	655	655	6.55 Antech	6.55	−	−2.7	12.3	0.0	0.0	—	
1286	1000	1000	10.00 Antech	10.00	−	−2.7	12.3	0.0	0.0	—	
1287	655	655	6.55 Antech	6.55	−	−2.7	12.3	0.0	0.0	—	
1288	1000	1000	10.00 Antech	10.00	−	−2.7	12.3	0.0	0.0	—	
1289	655	655	6.55 Antech	6.55	−	−2.7	12.3	0.0	0.0	—	
1290	1000	1000	10.00 Antech	10.00	−	−2.7	12.3	0.0	0.0	—	
1291	655	655	6.55 Antech	6.55	−	−2.7	12.3	0.0	0.0	—	
1292	1000	1000	10.00 Antech	10.00	−	−2.7	12.3	0.0	0.0	—	
1293	655	655	6.55 Antech	6.55	−	−2.7	12.3	0.0	0.0	—	
1294	1000	1000	10.00 Antech	10.00	−	−2.7	12.3	0.0	0.0	—	
1295	655	655	6.55 Antech	6.55	−	−2.7	12.3	0.0	0.0	—	
1296	1000	1000	10.00 Antech	10.00	−	−2.7	12.3	0.0	0.0	—	
1297	655	655	6.55 Antech	6.55	−	−2.7	12.3	0.0	0.0	—	
1298	1000	1000	10.00 Antech	10.00	−	−2.7	12.3	0.0	0.0	—	
1299	655	655	6.55 Antech	6.55	−	−2.7	12.3	0.0	0.0	—	
1300	1000	1000	10.00 Antech	10.00	−	−2.7	12.3	0.0	0.0	—	
1301	655	655	6.55 Antech	6.55	−	−2.7	12.3	0.0	0.0	—	
1302	1000	1000	10.00 Antech	10.00	−	−2.7	12.3	0.0	0.0	—	
1303	655	655	6.55 Antech	6.55	−	−2.7	12.3	0.0	0.0	—	
1304	1000	1000	10.00 Antech	10.00	−	−2.7	12.3	0.0	0.0	—	
1305	655	655	6.55 Antech	6.55	−	−2.7	12.3	0.0	0.0	—	
1306	1000	1000	10.00 Antech	10.00	−	−2.7	12.3	0.0	0.0	—	
1307	655	655	6.55 Antech	6.55	−	−2.7	12.3	0.0	0.0	—	
1308	1000	1000									

When the music stopped for Seoul's merry-go-round

**Technically,
South Korea
is bankrupt,
writes
Rosemary
Righter**

The Minister sat bolt upright across the dinner table, his smile fixed — there is no other word for it — in my direction. He spoke heavily accented English, which came out in staccato bursts, punctuated at every phrase with a quickfire "yes-yes" that did duty as a hesitation stammer. The stiffness seemed entirely appropriate.

This was no ordinary evening, although within 48 hours South Korea's reluctant decision that it had no option but to turn to the International Monetary Fund had made this encounter seem like the calm before the storm.

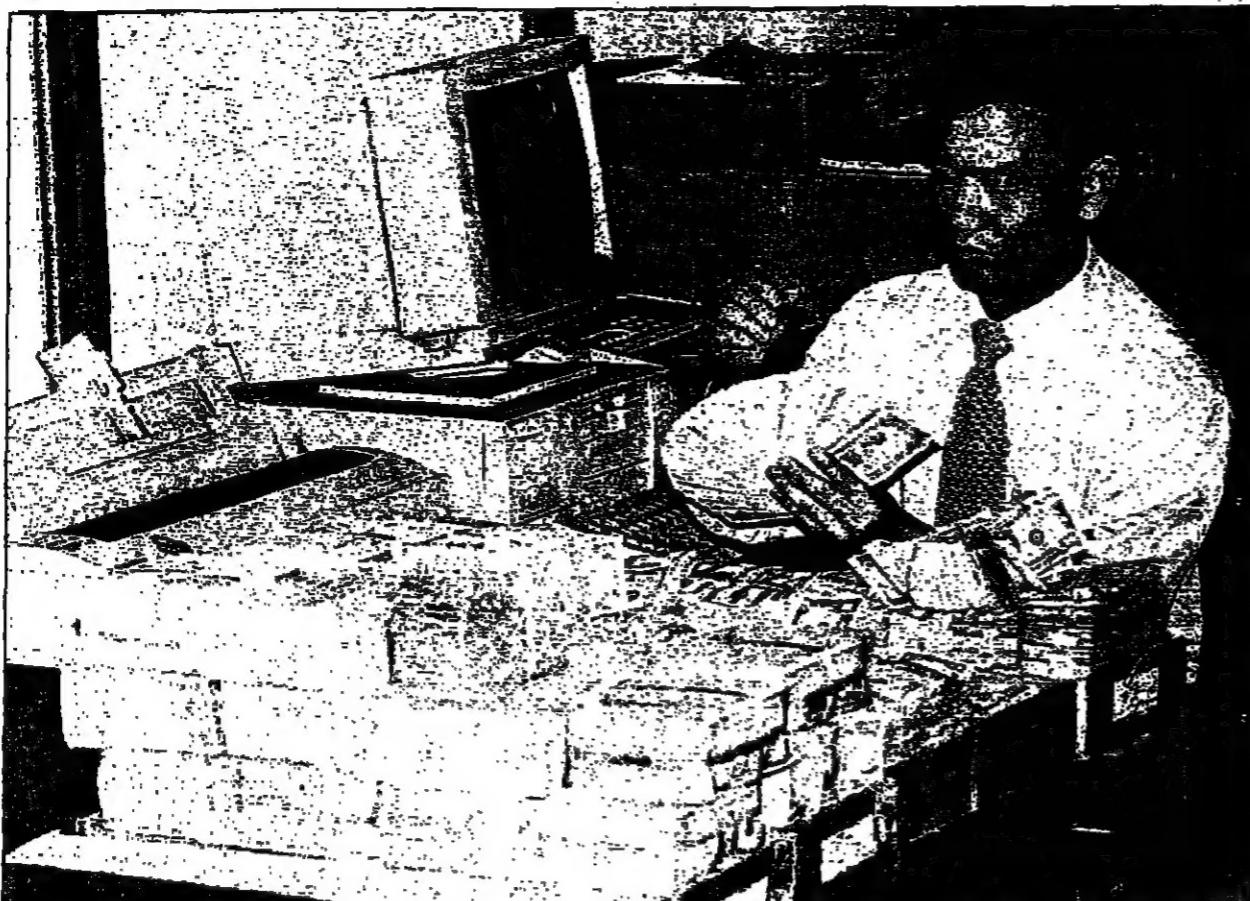
That was Wednesday. For the second day running, South Korea's foreign exchange market had suspended trading within minutes of the opening bell, arresting the won's descent only thanks to rules, changed the very next day, that stopped play as soon the currency shifted by more than 2.5 per cent.

The Finance Minister had resigned a couple of hours earlier and Lim Chang Yuel, his replacement, had rushed into a press conference with a long list of measures that revealed more about the Government's anxiety to show that it did not need the services of the IMF than it did about the spectacular collapse of confidence in South Korea's economic prospects.

How there was to be a game plan until well after the December 18 presidential elections was unclear, with the three front-runners in the campaign competing with each other in the issue-avoidance stakes. The South Korean National Assembly's last act on Tuesday, before adjourning until next year, had been to kick into touch most of the financial reform bills judged essential to a return to economic health.

What has compelled action regardless of politics is that South Korea, the world's eleventh largest economy, is technically bankrupt. The Government, which used to boast about the health of its foreign exchange reserves, no longer releases the current figures.

The most that it will admit publicly is that at the end of last month, they were \$30.5 billion (£18 billion) — less than



South Korea's foreign exchange reserves are down to \$10 billion, or ten days of financing the nation's obligations

three months' worth of imports, and barely more than the estimated \$25 billion of short-term foreign debt that falls due within the next five weeks. That was grim enough to cause a collapse of investor confidence, but was still far short of the true picture.

The Times has learned that what the country's powerful bureaucrats in the Ministry of Finance and the Economy and the Korean national bank did not disclose even to the President before this week is that the true figure is around \$10 billion.

With forward contracts stacked up committing the central bank to sell dollars at a set rate, that amounted to about ten days' worth of financing. Between Wednesday and Friday, South Korea attempted to cajole Japan and America into bridging the gap.

When the answer came back that it could expect help only in the shape of an IMF package, it had no other exit. Late on Friday night, President Kim Young Sam broke the news to the country told for weeks that all was well and that the collapse in foreign investor confidence was irrational, or even malicious. The political backlash could be severe.

The statistics underlying this crisis are as grim as those behind Japan's seven-year slump — with the difference that Japan is the world's biggest creditor and can to that extent choose whether or not to face facts, whereas South Korea's coffers are emp-

ty. They include serious trade and current account deficits; some spectacular bankruptcies affecting some of the most powerful Korean conglomerates, the *chaebols*, with the certainty of more trouble in the pipeline; and serious over-supply in key industrial sectors.

Many leading banks are technically broke, with bad debt counting for between 100 and 400 per cent of the capital base of the top nine. The roots of the problem lie in South Korea's highly interventionist

rule. Since the country became a democracy, they have become formidable powers in the land; and because workers had a rough deal under dictatorship, they can muster strong public support when they assail any attempt to limit those powers as an assault on democracy.

The result has been wage explosion which, at 15 per cent a year for the past seven years, has far outstripped productivity gains and taken real industrial wages above those not, more than that.

assurances that South Korea was immune from the South-East Asian disease, that the markets would very soon recognise the country's "sound economic fundamentals" and return to their senses, that South Korea was in for a tough couple of months but

no, not more than that.

that optimism. But he did not minimise the problems — above all, the problem of knowing where to begin on reform. "South Korea has been so successful, yes, that it is not like the old days. It was easy to fix things before because we were a very little animal, a mouse, yes-yes. Little animals are easy to cure, to anaesthetise, to see what is wrong, to operate. But South Korea today is a small elephant. That is not so easy, yes-yes. We are not even sure, yes-yes, how to fix it on the operating table."

The answer is that the Government, this time, cannot do all the lifting. That is the first message that it has to get across. South Koreans will have to accept many things that they have reckoned unacceptable.

Even with an international rescue operation that could cost well over \$60 billion, that will include mergers and some closures of bankrupt financial institutions and companies, with large-scale job losses, the opening of the still fiercely protected domestic market to investors and standards of disclosure that prevent future problems from building up undetected.

To the north, both Seoul and Washington are acutely aware that the Pyongyang regime is desperate that it has never been more unpredictable.

Yet unlike Japan, Koreans will probably bite whatever bullet they have to. This is Asia's most "can do" society and they have been here before.

In the oil shock of 1973, one of the advisers drafted to the President's emergency economic council that was created last week recalls, the country was so broke that the governor of the central bank personally flew to New York to borrow \$200 million. "We were that low."

South Korea's growth is likely to be 3 per cent next year, less than half the rate to which it is accustomed; and at that rate, the debts piled up cannot be paid.

These problems are compounded by a dramatic decline in South Korea's once formidable competitive edge. Labour laws and practices that make the Britain of Arthur Scargill's prime seem a model of flexibility, are pricing its exports out of the market.

The militancy of the country's trade unions is a legacy of

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The fun face of history

The History Hour

Adam Hart-Davis, minus his bike and coloured clothing but not his hearty enthusiasm, teams up with a new face, Jane Constantinou, to convince us that history is fun. Running Mondays to Fridays over the next three weeks, *The History Hour* is split between "classic" (that is, repeated) documentaries and tips on how to unearth local and family history. After a showing of the 1994 film by Richard Holmes (*War Walks*) about preparations for the D-Day landings, we join Hart-Davis and Constantinou in Leeds. Hart-Davis' stroll down Briggate yields a rapid survey of 700 years of civic history which takes in the origin of Marks & Spencer and the claim, from Sir Jimmy Savile no less, that Leeds saw the invention of the disco. The revelation is typical of this chummy show.

Pantomime

Channel 4, 8.30pm
The imminence of the new pantomime season is the cue for a series which explores the business through one of its leading impresarios, Paul Elliott. He is staging no fewer than 18 pantos this Christmas, from Aberdeen to Southampton, and the cameras follow the gestation of three of them: Lionel Blair, John Inman and Britt Eklund star in *Snow White*. Gary Wilmot is strutting his stuff in *Cinderella* and Matthew Kelly is the lead in Elliott's biggest production, *Mother Goose* in Birmingham. Kelly describes Elliott as a man who loves pantomime, loves making money and a workaholic. He also has no time for performers who think they are bigger than the show. But he can turn on the charm, persuading a reluctant Danny La Rue that the best place for him at Christmas is Shetland.

Movers and Shakers

Channel 4, 8.00pm
This entertaining little series continues to demonstrate that most innocuous games can arouse the most extraordinary passions. Even, and by no means least, dominoes. The film covers a needle match between teams from Bristol and Luton. All the players are of West Indian origin. Dominoes, it may be surprising to discover,



Gary Wilmot in *Cinderella* (C4, 8.00pm)

widely played in the Caribbean and immigrants to Britain have maintained the tradition. The Luton team, called The Young Guns, is led by the self-styled Professor Lara, a name derived from his knowledge of the game and admiration for the fast-scoring cricketer. The match demolishes any idea that dominoes is just a game of chance. Top players, such as the Professor, look several moves ahead and communicate moves to their partners through coded gestures. Play is fierce and noisy but unfailingly good-natured.

EQUINOX: WHEN PIGS RULED THE WORLD

Channel 4, 9.00pm
Thanks to *Jurassic Park* we are familiar with the dinosaur period but the Permian epoch, which preceded it by 50 million years, is much less well known. This informative documentary usefully fills the gap. The starting point is a footprint discovered by a farmer in the Karoo Desert of South Africa. This has led geologists to pursue evidence of the abundant animal life of 250 million years ago, including creatures evolving from reptile to mammal that can plausibly be described as our ancestors. This menagerie was all but destroyed in a mass extinction probably caused by a rapid heating of the Earth. The most notable survivor was a pig-like creature, the *lycosaurus*. Talk of mass extinctions brings the film rapidly to the present and speculation that another may be on the way.

Peter Waymark

RADIO CHOICE

Postscript: Designs for Living

Radio 3, 9.35pm
Today marks the beginning of National Architecture Week, so you may like to take up a pen and write to whoever designed that hideous block you passed over on the way to the shops. Or you prefer to listen to this new series, which is about the design of houses. I have only heard the first of the five programmes so I cannot guarantee we will discover why all shower cubicles are half as big as they need to be and nearly all kitchen sinks have the worst view in the house, but we do hear architects variously describe a house as "an inhabited sculpture" and, more encouragingly, "the ultimate test for an architect". Tonight starts with Charles Rennie Mackintosh's Hill House, the first hint of Modernism.

RADIO 1

6.30am Kevin Greening and Bob Bell 9.00 Simon Mayo 12.00 Jo Whalley, includes 12.30pm Newsbeat 2.00 Mark Radcliffe 4.00 Dave Pearce 6.15 Newsbeat 6.30 Evening Session 8.30 Live Music Update 8.40 Andy Kenward 9.30 Mary Anne Hobbs 10.00 Celia Warren 4.00 Chris Moyles

RADIO 2

6.00am Alan Lester 7.00 Wake Up to Wogan 8.00 Ken Bruce 11.25 Jimmy Young 2.00 Double Threat 3.00 Ed Stewart 4.00 John Dunn 7.00 Hampshire 4.00 8.00 Melvyn Laycock with Big Band 6.00 Endance Band 6.00 8.00 Big Band Special 9.00 Haynes Over Britain 10.30 Richard Allinson 11.00 Steve Macdonald 3.00 John Terrell

TALK RADIO

6.00am Paul Ross and Carol McGiffin 9.00 Scott Chisholm 12.00 Lorraine 2.00 Tomorrows Tonight 3.00 Peter Deasy 7.00 Anne Redfern 9.00 James White 11.00 Ian Collins

RADIO 3

6.00am On Air, with Andrew McGregor, Vivien Walcott (2 Sat, La Cuccia); First (Clarinet Concerto); Sarasate (Fantasy on the Magic Flute); Debussy (Prélude à l'Après-Midi d'un Faune); Rossini (Overture La Cenerentola); Wagner (Sieghediy)

9.00 Morning Classics, introduced by Peter Hollingworth, includes Ravel (Bolero); Glazunov; Liszt (Grand Studies after Paganini Nos 1-3); Ravel (Pierrot et Gasparin); Mozart (Piano Quartet in E flat)

10.00 Musical Encounters, with Mary Miller, Bernstein (On the Waterfront); Rubinstein (2 Caprices); Copland (Appalachian Spring); Brahms (Hungarian Dance No 1); Hahn (Six American Songs); Setz; Beethoven (Coriolan Sonata in G minor); Bernstein (Lonely Town); On the Town)

12.00 Concerts of the Week; Richard Meister 1.00pm The Big Band Show, featuring Live from St John's Smith Square, London; Philharmonic Hall, Alard, piano; Berg (Sonata); Schoenberg (Four Pieces); Webern (Variations); Schönberg (Three Pieces)

2.00 The BBC Orchestra, BBC Scottish Symphony Orchestra, BBC Northern Orchestra, BBC National Orchestra of Wales; Fischer, Lisicki (Prometheus); Chopin (Piano Concerto No 1 in E minor); with Piers Lane, piano; Liszt (Mephisto Waltz No 1); Strauss (Don Juan); Beethoven (Symphony No 1 in C)

4.00 Music Makers, Ivan Hewitt with the latest news and views from the world of classical music (4)

RADIO 4

5.55pm (LW) Shipping Forecast 6.00 News Briefing 6.10 Farmer Today 6.25 Prayers for the Day 6.30 Today 6.45 Women in the House, Shirley Williams looks at life in Westminster from a female perspective (4/5) 6.55 Weather

8.00 News 9.05 Start the Week, with the Times columnist Melvyn Bragg and guests

10.00 (LW) Daily Service

10.05 (FM) Dear Diary, extracts from the diaries of Pat Givens, an English missionary in Sierra Leone in the 1960s (2)

BRIE
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cash flow

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**PROFILE 47**

Our verdict
on Smiths
industries

BUSINESS

MONDAY NOVEMBER 24 1997

BUSINESS EDITOR Patience Wheatcroft

BROWN DAY 48

Roger Bootle
on the view
from No 11



Brown to stifle hope of extra spending in Budget report

By ALASDAIR MURRAY
ECONOMICS CORRESPONDENT

GORDON BROWN will warn ministers in tomorrow's pre-Budget report that there will be no let-up in restraint on public spending even though the Government's debt problems are fast disappearing. The Chancellor is concerned that, with the Government on course to beat the current Treasury forecast for the public sector borrowing requirement

(PSBR) this year, spending departments will start clamouring for extra money.

However, in a paper prepared as part of the pre-Budget report, the Treasury has set out its view that the Government must try to surpass its borrowing targets in order to avoid the financial problems that have hit previous administrations.

The Treasury believes that if the current state of public finances are taken at face value, there is a risk of repeating the errors of the Lawson years in the late 1980s, when

a seemingly healthy fiscal position was used as an excuse to cut taxes, only for the public finances to deteriorate rapidly as the recession took hold.

Mr Brown will instead commit himself always to "err on the side of caution" in managing the PSBR and not to change the Government's debt targets over the course of an economic cycle. To help to achieve this, the Treasury will in future publish two adjusted measures of the PSBR, which will let the Chancellor assess the under-

lying state of public finances. This tough line on public finances will please the City and should ultimately ensure that the Government is rewarded with a fall in the long-term cost of borrowing. The City expects Mr Brown to cut the full-year PSBR by about £3 billion from its current £10.9 billion target, but is concerned about the outlook for public finances as the economy slows next year.

The Treasury position will be backed by two other initiatives in the pre-Budget

report. Mr Brown is expected to announce plans for the first fiscal responsibility code, which will lay down government reporting requirements on the state of public finances. He is also likely to restore the Government's two fiscal rules: the "golden rule" that it will borrow only to invest over the economic cycle and the rule that public debt should be held at a prudent proportion of national income.

A Treasury paper, *Fiscal Policy: lessons from the last economic cycle*, gives

warnings of parallels between now and 1986, when the economy's strength helped government finances to go into surplus and the Treasury forecast surpluses for the foreseeable future. The Conservatives used the forecasts to make big tax cuts, but the recession made the deficit worse, and exceed 7 per cent of GDP in 1993-94.

Leading article, page 23
Roger Bootle, page 48

Barclays seek new casino licence at Ritz

RAYMOND SNODDY, MEDIA EDITOR

DAVID and Frederick Barclay, the reclusive twins whose interests range from hotels to newspapers, will today apply for a casino licence in the name of Aidan, David's son, for the Ritz Hotel, their London flagship.

If the Barclays, based in Monte Carlo, succeed, it will be only the second new licence awarded in London in nearly 20 years and the first for a new entrant to the business. They are supported by such prominent figures as Lord King of Wartnaby, Lord Hanson and George Carmen, QC.

London Clubs International

currently runs the Ritz Club in the Ritz Hotel, but the licence runs out in the new year and London Clubs plans to take the franchise to a nearby venue in Central London. The closeness of this casino may work against the Barclays.

They have hired Mr Carman to put their case to magistrates that a new casino licence should be awarded in David's son's name for what will be the vacated basement of the Ritz Hotel.

The licensing authorities will want to convince themselves that the Barclays, who are so secretive that they have

bought up the rights to photographs of themselves to prevent the pictures from being reproduced, are men of probity. The Gaming Board rescinded a number of licences in the 1970s, including those for clubs run by Ladbroke and Playboy. Ladbroke has returned to the London scene, buying four casinos and winning the first new licence for two decades when its application for a site in Tottenham Court Road was accepted in August. The Gaming Board is opposing the Barclays' application.

In his evidence supporting the Barclays, Lord Hanson will say the Barclays are fit and proper people to hold a casino licence. In addition, Lord King, the president of British Airways, will argue that a casino licence in the Ritz Hotel is part of the process of ensuring that London remains a world-class tourist destination.

Retaining a casino in the Ritz Hotel is seen as a key part of the Barclays' plans to develop the hotel, including the creation of an American bar.

Recently a lot of the Barclays' efforts have gone into developing their newspaper interests. Apart from increasing the circulation of *The Scotsman and Scotland on Sunday*, their weekly, *The European*, is moving to magazine format and a Monday publication date on January 19. *Sunday Business*, their latest purchase, is due to be relaunched, also in January, with an expensively assembled stable of journalists led by Jeff Randall, a former sports and City editor of *The Sunday Times*.



London Clubs International currently runs the Ritz Club but plans to seek a new venue in the vicinity when the licence expires in the new year

Liberty chairman unsure of survival

DENIS CASSIDY, chairman of Liberty, yesterday admitted that he could lose control of the troubled retail group next month (Chris Ayres writes).

He said: "I'm not certain I can stand up to the threat. You can't say you're confident of the outcome when the opposition has 47 per cent of shares. It's up to the shareholders and I hope it's decided by those without a

private agenda." The Stewart-At-Liberty family, who founded the company, has joined other rebel shareholders to call for a meeting on December 11, when they will attack Mr Cassidy's plans to spend £43 million on Liberty's flagship store in London and his decision to put the company up for sale.

They will attempt to appoint Odile Griffith and Brian Myerson to the board.

Yamaichi crisis may cost 300 UK jobs

BY ADAM JONES

MORE than 300 London employees of Yamaichi, the fourth-biggest securities house in Japan, will learn their fate this morning. The broker is poised to shut down after an emergency board meeting held last night.

Yamaichi's management, struggling under liabilities thought to be greater than 200 billion yen (£940 million), admitted on Saturday that a shutdown was being considered. It would be the biggest business failure in post-war Japan. Yamaichi is celebrating its centenary year.

The Japanese markets will be closed today for a national holiday. Most other stock markets around the world are likely to fall, said Roger Bootle, chief economist of HSBC, the banking and financial services group. He added that the Japanese banking crisis was already factored into share prices, so the drop should not be catastrophic.

He said: "I would have thought something like this would have been substantially discounted."

Japanese bond futures traded in London are particularly

likely to be affected, traders said at the weekend. On Friday, Wall Street rallied late in the day despite clear indications in the afternoon that Yamaichi was poised to cease trading. The yen also rebounded from initial falls to close at 126.3 to the dollar.

Yamaichi's main office outside Japan is in London. About 260 London securities staff employed by Yamaichi International (Europe) will

discover their fate at a meeting this morning. Another 50 work for Yamaichi Bank, a profitable wholesale and commercial bank, in London. The bank is thought to be less threatened than the troubled securities operation.

Japanese banks have been sent reeling by the global instability in equity markets, which has cut the value of their reserves. The fall has exacerbated racketeering scandals plaguing many Japanese companies.

Fuji Bank said it is expecting a \$10-20 billion loss on loans to Yamaichi affiliates at home and abroad, while adding that this should not be problematic.

Napier poised to quit Redland role

BY CHRIS AYRES

ROBERT NAPIER, the embattled chief executive of Redland, will become executive chairman to help to fight the 320p share bid by Lafarge. Part of Redland's strategy is to sell its 56 per cent stake in Redland Bricks Building, its European roof tile subsidiary, for an estimated £800 million.

Lafarge yesterday denied reports that it was considering raising its offer for Redland from 320p per share to 350p per share.

Redland will publish its defence plan on Wednesday.

dealing almost impossible. The Federation d'Affichage, representing poster groups, will hear next Monday whether competition authorities will allow local authorities to scrap any restrictions and invite new bidders.

More Group, which has

been fighting Decaux in the UK bus stop market for years through the More O'Ferrall brand, is already advancing on its rival. Last July, the city of Rennes ditched its contract with Decaux and handed a £1.6 million deal to More Group. It says this is the first time an overseas company has stepped in for 25 years.

Mr Parry, chief executive of More Group, said: "We would adore the chance to compete in France because we won in Rennes and I'm sure we could do it again. No company can possibly complain about fighting on a level playing field and it means the local authority gets more for their money."

"I can live with the fact that there are Decaux bus shelters in the middle of London; it's all fair competition."

M Decaux is widely credited with inventing the street furniture market, then making it the largest in the world. Under its system, private companies approach city councils and offer to build and look after anything from bus stops to high street maps.

Councils pay nothing, while the company pockets all proceeds from selling advertising space which is always built in

together with the town centre.

Decaux's billboard rivals, with a tiny slice of the French

superior market, say the company uses complex contracts, making competitive ten-

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THE TIMES



■ Tomorrow
Marketing, is it an art or is it a science? Julian Lee provides the answers.

■ Wednesday
As the world counts the cost of the El Niño weather system, Alasdair Murray assesses the damage.

■ Thursday
Graham Scarsell, left, returns with his inimitable view of the latest developments in world markets.

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